

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVII.]

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DEATH.

At No. 8 Police Station, at 2.05 a.m. on the 25th May, Police Inspector DAVID DOUGLAS CUTHBERT, aged 47 years, dearly beloved husband of Barbara A. Cuthbert. Deeply mourned.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 1st instant, and the Parcel Mails which closed in London for despatch by the all-sea route on April 22nd and for despatch overland on April 29th arrived per s.s. *Arcadia*, on the 28th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

A Shanghai correspondent writes to us: A most unusual sight—not seen for many years—is now a common object in Shanghai streets—whole rows of houses and shops with notices in English or Chinese "To let." This has had its counterpart in Hongkong for some time past.

In a formidable list of "undelivered cargo at the company's wharves," the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. advertises three coffins with corpses. One has been in store since 1900; the others are fresher, dating from 1905 and 1906.

At the Magistracy Mr. Kemp heard an application for the extradition of a Frenchman named Louis Jean Felix Desplats, formerly a clerk in the Registrar General's office at Touranne, Annam, who was wanted by the Government of Indo-China on a charge of stealing government funds amounting to \$2500. He denied the charge, and the hearing was adjourned for a week.

In an Imperial Rescript granted on May 12 to Japanese Secretaries of the Provincial Governments lately assembled in Seoul, his Korean Majesty emphasizes his determination to carry the programme of renovation into effect, refers to the new agreement concluded with Japan, with a view to relying upon Japan's assistance and guidance, and requests of the Secretaries that they shall harmoniously assist and co-operate with native administrative functionaries. In an hour's speech, before the Japanese Secretaries, Prince Ito, the Resident-General, amplified the Imperial Rescript and expressed a hope that they would fulfil their important functions with regard to Japan's protectorate over Korea, which was under the close observation of the Powers.

SIR ROBERT HART

Reverting to the subject of the departure of the I.G., I.M.C., for home, it is to be noted that in recording Sir Robert Hart's embarkation at Shanghai on May 1st the "Echo de Chine" remarked: "L'absence de membres de la China association, du Municipal council et de la Chambre de commerce a été fort remarquée et commentée."

Two Japanese contemporaries in reporting Sir Robert Hart's send-off speak of his journey as of his final departure from China. One says:—"This recognition of the services of an Irishman who has devoted more than fifty years of his life to China's best interests, and whose work has been crowned by a degree of success never likely to be paralleled in the future, does as much honour to the Chinese as to Sir Robert. Nominally he proceeds to Europe on a year's leave only, but it is not thought likely that he will ever return to China."

The other paper says:—"The English Inspector General starts on a nominal leave of one year, but public opinion in Peking leans to the belief that he will not return again."

HIS ILLNESS.

As a matter of fact, it all depends on the I.G.'s health. Sir Robert Hart for two years past has suffered from an affection of the kidneys, and this in a man of his years is not a thing to be ignored. The change may restore him to health, or it may not. The doubt as to this is the sole thing that will determine whether Sir Robert will return to China or not. At present if his kidney disorder proves to be temporary and not, chronic, curable and not incurable, there is every chance that China will see him at the end of his twelve months' leave back in Peking.

In obedience to the Imperial instructions the Viceroys of Liangkang and of the Hukwang provinces have sent something like 12,000 rifles and a million cartridges to Yunnan for the use of the troops there against the anti-monarchists. Of course, not a third of these firearms will be necessary for this purpose, but as it has been fully determined to reorganize the Yunnan Army on the same basis as those of Peiyang, Liangkang and Hukwang Viceroyalties 12,000 rifles will be none too many, as the strength of the new corps will not fall short of 30,000 men. Probably, at the present moment, there are enough modern rifles to equip properly 12,000 men, more than one half of which are said to be stored in the Provincial Ordinance Bureau of Yunnan.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Board Room, on the 5th May 1908.

Present:—Messrs W. H. Wallace (Chairman), C. A. V. Bowers, W. Kruse, S. Chuyama, W. Wilson and the Secretary.

1 The minutes of the last meeting are read, and confirmed.

2 A communication is received from the Superintendent of Police concerning the present pay of the Police, and recommending, that owing to the increase in cost of living, their pay be increased by \$1.50 per month, and that cooks be engaged for them, the same as in other police forces. The matter having been fully discussed, it is decided that the Superintendent of Police's recommendation be approved.

3 An application is read from Mr. Tung Choo-poo, compradores of, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., for permission to build a jetty from the premises formerly known as Messrs. Noalle's Bakery and Slaughter House. The Secretary is instructed that in granting this application the Council stipulate that the public have a right of way to this jetty from both the sea and land side, but that the jetty be private property and be kept in repair by the owner.

4 The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been dealt with at the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—

SUMMONSES.

Breach of contract 1, Illegally selling land 2, Kidnapping 1, Contempt of Court 4, Howling pigs and cattle to stray 6, Breach of Municipal Regulations 2, Illegally quarrying stone 1, Obstructing the public drain 4, Obtaining goods under false pretences 1, Assault 1.

SUMMARY ARRESTS.

Theft 1, Creating a disturbance 1, Obstructing the Police in the execution of their duty 1, Housebreaking 1, Illegally quarrying stone 1.

(Signed) W. H. WALLACE,
Chairman.

By order,

C. BERKELEY MITCHELL.

Secretary.

RAILWAY WORK IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 25th May.)

"Your most effective missionary in China is the railway," remarked a Chinese gentleman, talking about the creditable progress being made with our little local line. It is true, and cannot too often be repeated, that a vast empire like China needs rapid and easy means of transit between its outlying parts before it can progress as a whole. In the human corporation, the circulation is the life, and when China once enjoys a complete internal circulation, there is no telling how lively she may be. Certainly it will be vastly different to what it is now, when the people of one province look upon the people of another province as foreigners. The national feeling so often desiderated by China's friends, the patriotism that depends upon the feeling of homogeneity, ought to follow soon after the adequate railway system. Indeed, the progress so far made gives promise of this. In view of so much still to do, we are apt to overlook what has actually been done, yet in the last few years, quite a respectable progress has been achieved in this connection. It is not so very long ago—the late 'Seventies—that the obstinate local officials were opposing successfully the first attempt to introduce the short line between Shanghai and Woosung. A very few months ago, Shanghai had to undertake quite a ricksha journey to show its visitors a railway train. Now it thinks nothing of a week-end trip inland by train, and it enjoys a wide choice of stopping stations. The Shanghai timetable as now published is quite an imposing document, and conduces to a certain Bradshaw-like respect in the student thereof. After the war of 1894, it is generally remembered, there was quite an epidemic of concessions, but it is also remembered how for long there seemed little prospect of these developing into actual lines. Pressure in more than one direction had to be applied, and now, in this year of grace, and if we include Manchuria, we can proudly point to well over three thousand miles of railway lines actually laid down, with another thousand in the making, and four thousand miles surveyed and—or sanctioned. The three thousand miles of railway now in use serve to indicate what will happen when all that are projected are made. The Chinese are taking to railway travelling like ducks to water, we are told. The passenger carriages are crowded, and the goods trucks also would be crammed with merchandise but for that little misunderstanding about *likin*. As it is, observers claim to have noticed a distinct dwindling effect upon the parochialism of the Chinese in the neighbourhood of available railways. Wider outlook, growth of interest in broader issues, is being traced in some districts to the influence of the Puffing Billy. Those are foreign observations, however. The Chinese are not quite awake yet to these immaterial or indirect benefits. The *London Times* points this out, and wastes upon an audience already convinced some valuable remarks that should have been printed in ideographs. For instance, it concludes a recent editorial thus: Hostility to foreign influence, suspicion of foreign intentions, lead the Chinese to oppose violently any scheme for railway construction in which foreign capital and direction is concerned. Strong agitation has taken place in several parts of China to persuade the Government to cancel concessions held by foreign syndicates. This attitude of hostility is not without justification. In the past, railway schemes were often a cloak for political ambitions, and Chinese interests were sometimes ignored by groups of capitalists, who had secured lucrative privileges. But in refusing to admit foreign co-operation in any

form the Chinese now seem to be injuring themselves. It would be quite possible for them to obtain the loan of external funds and the services of skilled engineers on terms that would fully safeguard China's sovereignty and interests. The last agreements concluded represent a great advance in this respect. But though in many provinces the people have formed associations to build their own railways, these movements have so far been conspicuous by their failure. There is a lack of capital, lack of mutual confidence between people and officials, and above all lack of capable engineers. The Peking to Kalgan Railway which is being successfully built by a Chinese engineer trained in the United States, is a solitary example of what may be possible in the future. In the meantime railway development is one of the most urgent needs of the Empire. That the Chinese nation should be able to reorganise itself successfully in the near future is imperative, no less for its own sake than for the preservation of peace and international stability in the Far East. For strengthening the control of the Government, for facilitating reforms, for giving vitality and cohesion to the teeming millions of the Empire, for developing military strength, and for fostering trade, the rapid growth of means of communication is an indispensable condition.

POLITICAL PHILIPPIC.

(Daily Press, May 26th.)

Nero fiddled while Rome was burning. We in these modern days are apt to point with affected disdain at the folly of our predecessors; "If we had been in the days of our fathers we would not have been partakers with them," &c. "Education," we preen ourselves in our superior knowledge and wisdom, has done away with all that sort of thing, and we have plainly no further use for common sense, which in this superior age we can safely turn out of doors and leave to forage for her own existence. True, it may be, that knowledge is power, but the very incarnation of power we can conceive embodied in a railway engine standing on a siding with full steam up. Now our railway managers ordinarily do not leave locomotives in full steam standing unattended about railway stations. It is true that such things have happened in spite of all regulations to the contrary, and locomotives with no mind to control them have started on the journey, and dire has been the disaster.

Now it is this very fact that knowledge is power that enormously increases the danger of the situation, and makes our modern follies inconceivably more dangerous than the simple errors of our ancestors. We have Sir EDWARD GREY's plain statement that attempt to set right the political position in Macedonia, which would involve the continuance of Turkish rule in Constantinople, would be followed by the immediate outbreak of a European war. Sir EDWARD GREY is an old Railway Chairman, and in the complicated management of a great Railway acquired that experience of men and affairs which has stood him such good stead in his control of the still more complicated matters that come within the ken of the Foreign Office. Sir EDWARD GREY is not the man of himself to leave the locomotive unattended standing in steam on the line; yet something of very much the same nature has been done by somebody, and the look-out is not altogether agreeable for the individual compelled to travel in the next train.

Last year Mr. HALDANE, Minister of State for War Affairs introduced a Bill in Parliament for the remaking of the Army. It was a truly radical measure, because before the new army is to be made the old army has to be destroyed; there is to be no mistake about it this time. All the old regulations and traditions are to cease in

favour of the new, which is to be indeed as well as in name a "Citizen" army. The old one had been a king's army, but Mr. CARDWELL, with perhaps some lingering Whig antipathies to standing armies, had sought after a German fashion to "territorialise" it; the names were changed, the old Buffs became the new East Kent Regiment, &c., but things went on much as before, and crack regiments remained so, and dowdy ones were as of old. One thing above all others would not be touched; the Horse Guards might stand much, but here they were resolute. The British Army was the most expensive in the world, some people (but they were radicals) hinted it was the most inefficient; but be that as it might, the expense was sacred. Mr. ST. JOHN BRODERICK tried hard to have this amended, but like all his predecessors, found the road too hard to be successfully traversed.

Now naturally it was different when the Cabinet of the "Mend-alls" came on the scene:—there appeared a head, it was certainly a head and with true Irish instinct the Cabinet resolved that, being a head, it had to be broken. Mr. HALDANE, to whom was allotted the job, apparently misunderstood his instructions and designed a new army; and the country, glad to find one constructive element, and having long felt that something ought to be done, to no one's astonishment more than his own, took up his scheme in a friendly spirit. It involved the entire destruction of the old Yeomanry and Volunteers, the formation out of the Line and Militia of a new Foreign-going Army, and the construction anew of a Home Army to be termed the Territorial Force. Mr. HALDANE was sanguine as to the result, and on March 31st the whole of the Volunteers and Yeomanry ceased to exist. Now getting into the latter half of May, things do not seem to be going along as merrily as had been expected. The employers of labour who were mainly concerned, complain that the new arrangements will seriously interfere with the time of their men; they had grown used to Volunteer hours, and willingly submitted to the absence of the men as in some measure compensated for by their improved physique and more orderly habits; but the extra burden they seem to object to. At all events, not more than a third of the required number of volunteers have come forward, and unless some effort be made to arouse national enthusiasm it seems that between the new stool and the old, the country is as likely as not to be left without an army at all. There were, it is true, many of the Cabinet even a year ago, who looked upon such a position of affairs as a good joke; "hadn't they made friends with France, and hadn't they a good chance of getting Russia to join the merry party, and what was the use fretting over the others? they could give the beggars a sop now and then to keep them in good humour; and there was always Free Trade (spelt with capitals, too) to fall back on; the beggars will never be foolish enough to quarrel with their bread and butter. At all events, we're in, and in we intend to stay as long as we can, and have a gay time to make up for all the time we have been out in the cold."—But a year more in harness, and the growing feeling that all was not quite as rosy as last year they had painted it, and the growing habit of work; and last, but not least, the feeling that by honest work they have done some actual good, and won the applause even of their political opponents, has commenced to show even a mirth loving cabinet that life is not, as old Sam Slick phrased it, all beer and

skittles. So, though there is still more than is wholesome of the old leaven, and fads and fancies are still in the ascendant, there is a slight rift in the darkness. Now, fortunately to all outside, the frolicsome element is coming to a very unpleasant awakening. Our home defence has disappeared; the Secretary for Foreign Affairs informs the country that, though he has been striving his utmost to keep affairs straight, that unpleasant little spot in Macedonia will keep breaking out, and although the better disposed of the Powers have always rallied round him there is still an explosive element abroad which may any day get beyond bounds. Then the Secretary of War hints mainly to the country that if, which he reminds them was only after all an experiment, the scheme of the new Territorial Army should not at once go through, it may become necessary to appeal to the country to adopt the only then alternative of compulsory service, which he had hoped to stave off. The late President of the Board of Trade, breaking loose from the fetters of the Cobden Club paralysis, had been showing the country to some useful purpose how our rivals had, while we slept, been stealing marches on our chief industries; and even an unwilling Prime Minister has had to acknowledge that there had been designs to weaken the efficiency of the Navy. Taking all these warnings from ministers responsible in their various departments, it is surely time that even the present House of Commons should begin to see that the country at large is under a policy of fad in lieu of reason, rapidly falling into a dangerous state. Surely Board Schools can for the nonce devote some little time to education; and fiery tee-totalers can in the face of a danger threatening all let the intoxication of their desires be sobered sufficiently to see beyond the public house at the corner. The game so peculiarly Irish of "Beggar my Neighbour," while as a corollary doing no good to oneself, has surely been played out, and the country demands that the business of the day should at last be taken in hands. As yet the demand has not formulated the man, and His Majesty's Ministers have still the opportunity of reforming their own ways, instead of seeking the ungracious task of, unasked, striving to remove the mote from their neighbour's eyes. A year and a half of fads, surely even Mr. Asquith cannot but see, is beyond a safe strain on the already over burdened fabric of the British Nation. We have abundance of time when we've put the locks and bars in order to think about changing round the furniture; meanwhile, the police are away on a wild-goose-chase, and news has just come in that the Bashi Bazouks are over the border. This is, however, just the time that our Cabinet selects to lay down the carpets, and call in the house decorators. Surely in no other country than England, and in no party in England outside the rump of the Cobdenites, could such a conjunction of fad and folly be tolerated for an instant. There is an old maxim beginning:—*Quem Deus vult*—Never apparently was it better exemplified.

On May 17th was issued a Decree stating that the country round about Peking had not had a sufficiency of rain since the opening of the summer term, in consequence of which it was feared the farmers would suffer. The Emperor therefore selected the 20th instant as a day to pray for rain and appointed Princes Chun, Li, Tsai Jun, Tsai Hsun and P'u Lun, and the Imperial noble Tsai Fu to proceed to the various temples to offer the prayers.

SHIPPING.

(Daily Press 27th May.)

Yesterday we published a paragraph stating that the German Government is giving the Nord Deutscher Lloyd an extra subsidy of £25,000 a year for a monthly service to Australia and Japan. In the same issue we published a telegraphic message from our London correspondent to the effect that the British Government is opposing the employment of Chinese on British ships. Together the two items supply a text for some comments on the supposed insecure condition of the supremacy of Great Britain's mercantile marine. To be doing with, British shipping is still a long way ahead of the rest, notwithstanding that comparisons of percentages seem to show it losing ground. The very fact that the British mercantile fleet is so enormous seems to be accountable to some extent for the pessimism prevailing, for there is no competition more fierce than that between British and British. Freight rates have dropped to a comparatively low figure, and are only saved from reaching a point at which they would be unremunerative by methods that have been giving rise to agitations and Commissions—to consignors becoming alarmed lest their prosperity should be interfered with by artificial inflation of rates. On this latter point, there seems to be a great deal to be said on both sides, and we can do no better than to wait for the report and the verdict of the Shipping Rings Commission. Meanwhile, there can be no doubt that the Government assistance given to foreign shipping puts it into a very favourable position to compete with the British, which is not even left to work out its own salvation, but is now threatened (on pseudo-patriotic grounds) with interference that will make its working costs heavier and its administration more difficult. The necessary reduction of expenses may have resulted in some cases, as has been alleged, in ships being sent out ill-equipped, undermanned, and badly provisioned, and it no doubt led up to the recent alteration of the load-line, which was objectionable from the point of view of the sailor. There is no equally valid objection to the employment of cheaper labour, especially as white stokers have been so notoriously unsatisfactory. One set of patriots bewails the diminution of the percentage of British carrying trade; another laments the increase in the number of aliens employed. It seems obvious that both cannot have their way, and it must be decided which point of view is the more important. There is also the question whether it is better for British bottoms to maintain their percentage by carrying foreign trade on favourable terms (as is said to be done) or for British trade to grow by favouring the transports that give it the best terms and conditions, irrespective of their nationality. These reflections show how complicated the whole subject is, and how difficult it is to discover what is really required. There is sure to be an outcry from some of our shipping companies against the Government's latest move, and yet that move was undoubtedly inspired by the patriotic alarm at the number of foreigners and aliens supplanting British sailors on British ships. Ought Great Britain to subsidise its shipping, as foreign nations are doing? Shareholders will naturally answer one way, and taxpayers another.

A native paper states that the French Government has offered to the Chinese Government to suppress anti-monarchists for it, but that the offer has been preposterously refused.

SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, 28th May.)

Shanghai is again experiencing trouble in connection with that peculiar institution which it calls the Mixed Court. There was wrangling between an eminent and admittedly respectable and qualified American counsel and the Chinese Magistrate, who had sitting with him on this occasion, very fortunately, an American Assessor. We are glad that the Assessor happened to be American, not because he did anything to smooth matters, but because the rupture is simplified by being limited to one foreign nationality. The foreign opinion at Shanghai seems to be that Dr. BARCHET, the Assessor, is not playing the game. He is an aged ex-missionary, and it looks as if he were inclined to support the new American policy of truckling to anti-foreign officials, regardless of the undoubted rights of the foreign community and its Municipal Council. Here is a summary of what occurred:

The case of Li Chun-lan, the actor, who had been detained in custody without a hearing for seven months, was brought up before the Magistrate. The Court was packed with Chinese, who followed the proceedings with noisy interest; they applauded the Magistrate loudly, especially when in his passages of arms with counsel he emphasized points of difference between Chinese and foreigners with marked bias against the latter, and generally they behaved in a manner derogatory to the dignity of the tribunal. No attempt was made, until towards the end of the hearing, to check these breaches of decorum, either by the Magistrate or by the Assessor; nor did Dr. Barchet think fit to intervene on behalf of his fellow-countrymen, Messrs. T. R. Jernigan and S. Fessenden, when they met with scant courtesy at the hands of Mr. Pao Yi. The whole proceedings to the foreign mind were unseemly, and it is a matter for regret that there was no one on the Bench better qualified to uphold the prestige of this community whether in the interests of the foreign or of the Chinese section.

It appears that the prisoner was a libertine, a breaker of family peace, and that he had already been condemned by Chinese public opinion, and the Chinese Magistrate, at the request of the Cantonese Guild, desired to sentence him on a charge that had not been formally preferred. Prisoner's counsel demanded his release, owing to the continued absence of the complainant, and reminded the Magistrate of the legal requirements in the case, of the Chinese law as applicable to that Court. The Magistrate, he said, ought to "pay attention to the commands of the Emperor." This Mr. Pao Yi regarded as insulting, and he lost his temper, and began to "talk to the gallery", which applauded him, especially when he said this was a purely Chinese case and that foreigners had nothing to do with it. This one remark was sufficient to show his unfitness for the difficult position he occupies, for the very presence of the foreign Assessor should have reminded him that Chinese justice in that Court is supposed to be tempered according to foreign notions. The foreign community is determined to tolerate no extreme Chinese judicial methods in its midst, and its right to intervene with this object has been admitted and agreed to. Its Assessors are not sent merely to supervise cases in which there may be foreign complainants or defendants. The Chinese had previously made efforts to have this man surrendered to a purely native court, and it appears that Dr. BARCHET was at first inclined to be weak in that direction.

No one acquainted with the struggle engaged in by the Municipal authorities to secure recognition by Chinese officials of the Mixed Court's jurisdiction could suppose that Li

Chun-lan would be handed over to the Chinese without the express sanction of that Court, says our contemporary, and adds: From yesterday's trial we may derive this one consolation that the correctness of this assertion was admitted by Dr. Barohet, inasmuch as he insisted upon a second warrant being issued for the arrest of Li Chun-lan on a different charge from the one on which he had appeared in Court.

The Magistrate, with Dr. BARCHET'S verbal concurrence, sentenced the prisoner to two months' imprisonment on a charge not on the charge sheet, and the latter was endorsed by the Assessor, "no complainant having appeared this charge is dismissed." This sufficiently indicates the provocation for our contemporary's concluding observation, that if this strange trial carries any lesson with it, it is that our Assessors must be of that stuff which, with the maintenance of perfect relations, yet leave the Magistrate convinced that he has seated by him a man who will not only see justice administered impartially, but will have some thought for the dignity of the Court and will insure respect for the cognizance taken of its proceedings by the Settlement authorities.

THE I.M.C.

(Daily Press, May 29th.)

The English newspapers, as might be expected, have been busily discussing Sir ROBERT HART. Most of them, knowing a little, are simply laudatory; others, knowing a little too much, seem hard put to it to qualify their praise without seeming ungracious. The frankly eulogistic as usual go to unwarranted extremes and suggest perfection; Sir ROBERT HART was "a man among men," strong and strenuous beyond the normal; and so on. There is no need to quote them, nor to detract the exaggerations. Sir ROBERT HART deserves more kudos even than he is likely to get, so the balance may adjust itself somehow. Most interest attaches to the comments of the *Times*, which while saying a great deal seems to be struggling to say more than it likes to say. "Though the trusted counsellor of China, he was also regarded by foreign nations, particularly by Great Britain, as a custodian of their rights and privileges." Past intrigues, past grumbles, are skated over thus. "If in the conduct of diplomatic negotiations he sometimes chose to consider that primarily he owed a duty to his Chinese associates, we are not now disposed to criticize him on that account. It was natural and inevitable that the warm sympathy with the Chinese race, which he conceived very early and has never since withheld, should remain the predominant influence in his mind." This is magnanimity of the *de mortuis* order. Sir ROBERT HART'S official career is "practically terminated," therefore the *Times* does not care to say all that it feels it could about a custodian of foreign interests whose pro-Chinese sympathy was "the predominant influence in his mind." Of Sir ROBERT BRETON, just grappling with his duties at a time as critical as any that has gone before, to say such things is obviously embarrassing. Yet they can be said and they have been said, and the *Times* shows no such shy reluctance as it does in the case of a career "practically terminated," and therefore safe from harm. Nothing has ever been alleged against the present Inspector-General that is not now hinted by the *Times* against his illustrious predecessor. Even to say so much was unwarranted; what Sir ROBERT HART has done, his critics know; what Sir ROBERT BRETON may do, they can only guess. Those whose gentlemanly instincts shrink from remem-

bering that there were casual flies in the amber of Sir ROBERT HART'S record should be gentlemanly enough to deprecate inimical guesses as to the record still in the making, and certainly to deprecate intrigues that have only such guesses for excuse. The *Times* even now congratulates itself that in 1885 Sir ROBERT HART declined "the artless offer" of the Minister-ship at Peking, and it has in mind "the possible consequences" of so pro-Chinese a person occupying such a position. The funny thing is that it sprinkles him with eulogistic adjectives, cataloguing his many virtues and talents, including his "shrewd perception," and yet never dreams of the possibility that in the views it disapproves, its paragon may have been right. It amounts almost to saying that it had implicit faith in his judgment, but that on several occasions he judged unwisely. To say that his "dominant will became supple and pliant" means plainly that a strong man became weak. Although Sir ROBERT HART has been nearly half a century in China, although he is an undoubted authority on things Chinese, and the one man who really understands the people, "with meek acquiescence he sought refuge in certain 'verbal assurances' which gave no guarantee, assurances which few people acquainted with the facts were prepared to accept." After that reference to the superior acumen of the "people acquainted with the facts," we have no option other than to believe that the *Times* considers that Sir ROBERT HART had become a dotard incapable of perceiving facts. Those who have had the privilege of recent communication with him know what a libel that is; his liver may be affected, but his brain most certainly is not. It is still capable of teaching something to the Book Club philosophers. The *Times* article, which is reprinted elsewhere in this issue, need not be further analysed. With the lead we have given, attentive readers will be able to see in it for themselves an example of how far illogical statements and unfair suggestions may be disguised with a gloss of pompous and decent verbiage. The poison is served in milk of human kindness.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

May 10th.

In my last letter I mentioned that Sir Robert Bredon had done a very popular and liberal deed in coming to the rescue of the Haiho Conservancy Commissioners by providing them with funds for the continuation of the raking work in the Ferguson Channel across the Tatu Bar. What the Acting Inspector General has done is to offer the Haiho Conservancy Board a loan. This loan will of course have to be paid back, but in the meantime it has enabled the work of maintaining the deepened channel across the Bar to be restarted without any of the delay that might otherwise have occurred through the obstructive attitude of the shipping interests.

Attention has been redirected to the serious commercial depression in Tientsin by the suicide on May 5 of two prominent Chinese merchants in the Native City, Mr. Yen Yueh Ching and his son. They had drawn postdated cheques on the Ho Te Bank, Tientsin, for amounts totalling about Tls. 60,000, and being unable to honour them, not having a single taal to their credit at the bank and being worried with other serious liabilities, amounting altogether to a million, they resolved upon suicide. The father, having caused his wife to hang herself, went out with his son, and the two drowned themselves in the river. The wife was subsequently found and resuscitated.

It is feared that this financial disaster will affect other Chinese firms in Tientsin and Peking and perhaps also several foreign firms. The

whole financial situation here is very unsatisfactory. The Chinese have been plunging or sinking deeper and deeper into debt for months past. No German firms alone they owe \$27,000,000, of which \$13,000,000 are absolutely unsecured; and smaller but still very considerable sums are owed to Japanese, French, and other foreign merchants.

Since I wrote last final official confirmation has been given to the appointment of the Director of the Imperial Railways of North China, Mr. C. L. Chow, to be Customs Taotai of Newchwang. Mr. Chow is a British subject, having been born in Hongkong. Like many other prominent officials in North China, he is a Cantonese and like most Cantonese, he is a very able man and in every way a model official. It was to the band of Southerners (Cantonese) whom H. E. Yuan Shih-kai gathered about him that the former Viceroy of Chihli owed much of the success which characterised his administration. These include Mr. Chow himself, who before he became director of the I.R.N.C., was director of the China Merchants S. N. Co., Mr. S. C. Tsai, Customs Taotai of Tientsin, Mr. Liang Tun Yen, formerly Customs Taotai of Tientsin and now on the Waiwupu, Mr. M. T. Liang, also a former Customs Taotai of Tientsin, and afterwards of Shanghai, and now of the Waiwupu, H. E. Tang Shao I, lately Governor of Moukden and now of the Waiwupu, Dr. Mark, director of the Public Works Department, Tientsin City, and several others who would be a credit to any country.

One of the cleverest and ablest of the officials named is H. E. Liang Tun Yen, who unfortunately is a victim of opium smoking. He is affected by the Imperial Edict forbidding opium-smoking amongst officials, and offered to resign. But H. E. Yuan Shih-kai knows him to be too valuable an official to lose, and declined to accept his resignation. Instead he gave him a holiday with a view to enabling him to effect a cure. The circumstance is one of those indications which show that the Chinese Government is seriously in earnest about putting down the opium evil.

An event of some importance was the appearance on May 5 of the first number of "The Chinese Public Opinion," a new tri-weekly paper, published in English under exclusively Chinese auspices in Peking. The editor is Mr. Chu Chi. The claim is made that it is "the first real Chinese newspaper in a foreign language." The object of the editor is to "discuss foreign actions from a Chinese standpoint. We should assiduously strive after bridging over the gulf that separates foreigners from Chinese in these days perhaps more than ever before. But above all and everything our aim and tendency is, and ever will be, as long as our paper is privileged to run its course, to publish the Public Opinion of our country. We shall do it in a just attitude to both sides, but our language will always be plain and open. We shall try to fight the good fight for the welfare of our emperor and his Empire. And for this our noble and sublime call, we shall suffer ourselves, if needs be, to be blamed, imprisoned, condemned and no matter what punishment is meted out to us, we will always publish our opinions. This is not only our right, but our duty."

THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.

The following are the results of the examinations held by the Hongkong branch on May 25th and 27th 1908.

Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, (Recommended for Certificate). Samuel Robert Boyd; Inspectors of Nuisances Examination, (Recommended for Certificate), Robert Hudson, Frederick Ernest Beach.

The following were the Examiners:—Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G., Director of Public Works, Hon. Dr. Atkinson, P.C.M.O., Mr. P. N. H. Jones, Asst. Director of Public Works, Dr. W. W. Pearse, M.O.H., Capt. Shinkwin, A.S.C., Mr. E. Ralphs, Mem. Sanitary Institut, Hon. Secretary, Mr. Alfred Carter, Mem. Sanitary Institute, Moderator. The above recommendation brings the total number of Sanitary Certificates gained in Hongkong since the formation of the local branch up to 39.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a monthly meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber Room, St. George's Building, Chater Road, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 16th May, 1908, at 12 o'clock noon. Present:—Messrs. D. R. Law (Chairman) J. R. H. Smith, J. Babington, J. W. C. Bonnar, A. Fuchs, Hon. Mr. M. Stewart and E. A. M. Williams (Secretary).

COMMITTEE.

The CHAIRMAN welcomed the new members of the Committee, Messrs. A. Babington and J. W. C. Bonnar.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last monthly meeting held on the 27th March 1908 were read and confirmed.

PRIVATE MOORING BUOYS IN THE HARBOUR.
The following reply to the Government was read:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
12th May, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd ultimo on the subject of the proposal of the Government to make leased moorings in the Harbour available to vessels other than those of the lessees.

2 My Committee note that section 28 (4) of the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance 1899 gives power to the Harbour Master to allot leased moorings to vessels other than those of the lessees.

I am to state, however, that my Committee are unaware of any occasion upon which the power has been exercised except under very special circumstances, and for reasons conveyed in paragraph 3 of this letter they view with alarm any change in the procedure that has been followed for many years.

3 My Committee note that the Government are prepared to guarantee that a buoy shall be available for the lessees' vessel upon giving the Harbour Master 48 hours' notice. It is, however, just this particular portion of the scheme, and the resultant inconvenience to all which my Committee anticipate by its adoption, that compels them to disagree with the proposals of the Government.

I am to put forward for example, a state of affairs that my Committee consider likely to occur.

A steamer consigned to agents, who do not own a buoy, arrives in the harbour and applies for and takes up her position at a leased mooring. She has a cargo that will take her three days to discharge. The owners of the buoy notify the Harbour Master on the day this vessel takes up her berth that they will require their buoy in 48 hours. What is the result?

(1) The steamer has to clear away i.e. either get up steam or be towed to a new berth.

(2) The Chinese consignees are greatly inconvenienced and lose time and money through the vessels having to move.

(3) Cargo boat owners suffer to the same extent and in the same way and lose additional time and money through having to search for the vessel at her new berth.

(4) Owners lose time and money and run unnecessary risk.

My Committee therefore consider the proposal both inconvenient and expensive.

As regards the undertaking by the Government to inspect the buoys for damage after their use by vessels other than those belonging to the owner of the mooring, my Committee consider that any examination short of actually hoisting up the buoy for the discovery of damage under water where it is most likely to occur, would be most unsatisfactory to owners.

4 My Committee regret that notwithstanding the Government's assurances contained in your letter of the 3rd April, they are unable to withdraw their objection to the scheme. I am to reiterate the Committee's belief that any alteration in the present procedure is unnecessary and would be extremely vexatious. My

Committee fail to see that the proposals if carried into effect will make this port more popular.—I am, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

TREATY BETWEEN UNITED KINGDOM AND
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

6th April, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to transmit for the consideration of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State dated the 3rd ultimo, in which Lord Elgin proposes to cause the adherence of this Colony to the Commercial Convention between the United Kingdom and Bulgaria which was notified on the 26th of last November to be notified to the Bulgarian Government, on or about the 1st of September next, unless he is furnished in the meantime with a statement of objections to such a course.

2 His Excellency the Governor will be glad to know whether, in the opinion of the Chamber, any such objections exist.—I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
The Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
16th April, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant (No. 2481/1908) enclosing copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the Commercial Convention between the United Kingdom and Bulgaria.

My Committee are unaware of any direct trade existing between this Colony and Bulgaria, and as the Treaty can be terminated, as far as this Colony is concerned, on giving 12 months' notice of such intention, they do not see any objections to the proposed adherence of this Colony to the said Convention.—I have &c.,

E. A. H. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

SUPREME COURT VACATIONS.

The following correspondence was read:—
Chambers, Supreme Court,
Hongkong, 11th April, 1908.

SIR,—In consequence of the publication of the further correspondence on the subject of the Supreme Court Vacations, I have the honour to point out that the memorial to the Chamber was not signed by eight firms of solicitors. Certainly half, if not more, of the signatories were gentlemen practising as individual solicitors, who are no more "firms" than individuals who carry on business by themselves. The statement that eight firms signed the memorials was therefore as unfortunately inaccurate as the statement in the minutes that the view of the Chamber was supported by the majority of the solicitors of the Colony. This statement was, as possibly you may not be aware, hurriedly corrected after I had pointed out its inaccuracy to the then Chairman, before copies of the proceedings were sent to the Press.—I have &c.,

F. T. PIGGOTT.

The Chairman Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
13th April, 1908.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 11th April on the subject of the Supreme Court Vacations, and in reply I am directed to state that my Committee do not see that any useful purpose can be served by continuing this correspondence.—I have &c.,

(Sgd.) E. A. H. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

His Honour Sir Francis Piggott,
Chief Justice.

Chambers, Supreme Court,
Hongkong, 14th April, 1908.

SIR,—I find myself on this point at least in agreement with the Committee of the Chamber, that no useful purpose can be served by continuing this correspondence, and I can only wish that the wisdom of this idea had prevented the issue to the Press of the further correspondence with the Government on the subject

of the Supreme Court Vacations, thereby provoking further unjustifiable attacks on the Chief Justice. The studied discourtesy of that correspondence induced me to point out the futility of the mystery with which the memorial of the "eight firms" to the Chamber has been shrouded, for the names of the signatories have long been known to me; and also compelled me to press home the inaccuracy of the statement made with regard to the status of those signatories.—I have &c.,

F. T. PIGGOTT,
Chief Justice.

The Chairman, Chamber of Commerce,

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.—re. ROLLING STOCK.

The following letters were read:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
22nd April, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to invite an expression of opinion by the Chamber of Commerce on the question as to whether bogie trucks or short-trucks would be best adapted for use on the Hongkong-Canton Railway.

I am to point out that the former have great advantages for single consignments of large bulk as 30 tons can be loaded on one truck. But if single consignments are small and the sender of goods desires a separate truck for his own use, the smaller trucks would obviously be more economical in freight.

As at present advised the Government proposes to adopt short trucks as being probably best suited, at the commencement, to local trade but the advice of the Chamber will be of value in the matter.—I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce
28th April, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 22nd instant (No. 4964/1907) inviting an expression of opinion from this Chamber on the question as to whether bogie trucks or short trucks would be best adapted for use on the Hongkong-Canton Railway.

In reply I am to state that it would appear that short trucks have been found wanting in utility on the Northern Railway and large bogie trucks are in general use on the Shanghai-Nanking Railway and the Hankow-Peking line. In Japan also short trucks are being discarded in favour of bogie trucks.

I am to enclose for your information extracts from the reports of the Directors of the Imperial Railways in North China for the years 30th September, 1904, 1905 and 1907. From these it will be seen that the tendency has been to convert the smaller trucks of earlier usage to cars of increased capacity.

It will be seen also that cars constructed for other railways in 1906 and 1907 were invariably of 30 tons capacity.

My Committee are of opinion that large bogie trucks are best adapted for use on the Hongkong-Canton Railway.

My Committee desire me to request you to be good enough to convey to the Government their thanks for the opportunity accorded them of giving an opinion on this matter.—I have &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
8th May, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo on the question as to whether bogie trucks or short trucks would be best adapted for use on the Kowloon-Canton Railway.

2. The Chief Resident Engineer anticipates that as a rule the Hongkong consignment would be small and that a consignee would not be able to fill a bogie truck, in which case he might have to pay the same freight for a 20 ton as for a 30 ton consignment. Moreover if short trucks are used they can be turned off a siding on a turn-table into a shed at right angles to the siding, and this would be a very great convenience to firms which possess godowns.

3. His Excellency the Governor has therefore decided to order both bogie trucks and short trucks for use on the railway.—I have &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce.

NEW TYPHOON HARBOUR OF REFUGE.

The following letters were read:—

Hongkong, 23rd April, 1908.

To the Chairman,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

SIR,—We, the undersigned, agents and representatives of British lines and owners of vessels visiting this port, beg to bring to your notice that we consider the scheme as set forth in the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 11th March, addressed to the Chamber of Commerce, which has recently been published, distinctly prejudicial to the interests of shipping, which is the mainstay and livelihood of the whole Colony. So much has been said in past years by your Chamber on this particular point that we think that it is hardly necessary for us to particularise once more the many arguments against the taxation of shipping.

In view of the fact that the proposed refuge is to be erected to protect lighters and native cargo boats in case of a typhoon, it appears to us that there are many concerns closely allied to shipping on which we think some part of the cost of the proposed work might fall. As an instance, we consider that underwriters are as much concerned as shipowners, inasmuch as it is of great value for them to know that craft will have a place of refuge in the event of a severe storm. We therefore consider that the contribution towards the expenses should be made more general and that the onus should not fall too much on the shoulders of the shipping trade.

As however the shelter is in the interests of the welfare of the Colony, and the shipping generally has a certain interest at stake, we think that a temporary increase in the light dues would be agreed to by shipowners without opposition provided it were based on a somewhat modified arrangement as regards payment.

During 1907 the registered tonnage of shipping visiting this port is put down at roughly 10,300,000 tons. We therefore think that if the tonnage dues are increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per ton and the cost of the work spread of a longer term of years (than that suggested) it would be more equitable and the distribution of the payment would be much better divided.

We would point out that of late years the tonnage of steamers has materially increased, it however does not follow that more cargo is being brought in or taken away from the Colony. On the other hand the dues, owing to the size of the vessels, are considerably increased.

We have made no mention regarding the proposed site of the shelter as we consider that this is best left to practical experts with which you are no doubt consulting. We however venture to think that the cost of the work as mentioned in the Colonial Secretary's letter is somewhat extravagant and trust that before the scheme is finally sanctioned a more economical and at the same time an equally efficient refuge can be evolved. You are so fully cognisant of the depressed state that shipping is in at the present time that it is hardly necessary for us to draw your attention to this fact, but as such is the case we trust that money will not be spent unnecessarily, as the times seem to call for economy in expenditure in every direction.

We would also draw your attention to the fact that under Notification No. 169 Schedule to Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance 1899 passed on the 4th February last, the licence fees for cargo junks and lighters has been increased 10% per cent. We should feel much obliged if you would kindly enlighten us as to why this tax has been increased and to what purpose the Government intend to devote the revenue derived therefrom.

We shall be obliged if your Committee will give their attention to the points we have raised before replying to the letter addressed to your Chamber by the Colonial Secretary.

We are, &c.,

F. J. ABBOTT.

Acting Superintendent P. & O. S. N. Co.

SHAW, TOMES & Co.

General Managers, China Manila S.S. Co., Ltd.

General Agents, American Asiatic S.S. Co. Agents, Shire Line of Steamers.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents, Ocean Steamship Co., Ltd.

Agents, China Mutual Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

Agents, China Navigation Co., Ltd.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., LTD.

General Managers, Indo-China S.N. Co.

Agents, Indra Line.

DODWELL & Co. LTD.

W. E. CLARK, Secretary, Hongkong,

Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.

D. W. CRADDOCK,

General Traffic Agent, Canadian Pacific Railway Co.,

DOUGLAS, LAPRAIK & Co.,

General Managers, Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.,

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,

Agents, E. & A. S/S Co., Ltd.,

Agents, "Ben" Line of Steamers

MCGREGOR BROS. & GOW,

General Managers, Glen Line of Steamers.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,

1st May, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to forward you a copy of a joint letter from agents and representatives of British lines and owners of vessels visiting this port, addressed to this Chamber and having reference to the proposals of His Excellency the Governor regarding the typhoon refuge to be constructed at Mongkoktsui.

I am to state that my Committee endorse the opinion of the signatories that the proposal of His Excellency to increase the light dues on Ocean going vessels by $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per ton, and on river steamers by $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per ton, should be, in equity, modified and the number of years over which it may become necessary to spread this taxation thereby increased.

My Committee consider that the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per ton increase on Ocean going vessels suggested by the agents and representatives is a more equitable arrangement than that proposed by His Excellency. By this means the burden is lightened to shipowners, and it may reasonably be assumed that the payment for the refuge, which will be equally in the interests of those to come, is thereby rendered more general.

It would also appear that the proposed increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per ton for river steamers is likely to prove a heavy tax in view of the numerous entries of these boats.

My Committee concur in the views expressed by the signatories to the enclosed letter as to the apparently excessive cost of the proposed refuge, and I am to state that my Committee would greatly appreciate an opportunity of viewing the plans and estimates for the scheme. They would then be in a better position to give an intelligent opinion on the subject.

Reference is made in the enclosed letter to an amendment to Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance 1899 under Notification No. 169 whereby licence fees for cargo junks and lighters were increased 10% per cent.

My Committee would beg you to supply them with the information necessary for the reply to the query.

I am to request you to be good enough to thank His Excellency for the opportunity accorded to my Committee for commenting on this subject,—I am, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

JAPANESE YARN LOTTERY.

The following letters were read:—

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
30 March, 1908.

SIR,—At a meeting of the Committee of this Chamber held on the 27th instant, an instance of the, unfortunately, well-known unfair trade methods adopted by some Japanese Merchants came up for discussion.

The enclosed press cuttings include what this Chamber is assured is a correct translation of a circulars recently issued to Chinese Yarn Merchants in this Colony by the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association. My Committee are led

to believe that the scheme first originated in the Settlement of Shanghai, and that the prizes offered were money prizes. The Court of Consuls declaring this to be a lottery the Association notified the Yarn Merchants of the Northern Port that the prizes would be in kind i.e. yarn.

The conditions of the lottery are fully set forth in the translation of the circular.

My Committee desire to bring to the notice of the principal Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain the fact that the yearly yarn imports of the port of Hongkong are roughly valued at \$25,000,000 Mexican Dollars, and that of this large amount 90 per cent is Indian and 10 per cent the Japanese article.

The British firms conducting this important branch of the Empire's trade do not fear fair competition, but they have strongly represented to this Chamber that the proposed lottery is calculated to appeal to the gambling instincts of the Chinese Merchants in the Yarn trade, and to artificially foster the Japanese trade to the detriment of the Indian trade.

My Committee therefore hope that your Chamber will assist this Chamber by strongly protesting through the usual diplomatic channels, and requesting the assistance of His Majesty's Government in the protection of British trade.—I am &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

The Secretary,
London Chamber of Commerce,
London.

Similar letters were also sent to the following Chambers:—Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford and Glasgow.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

8th April, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to request you to be good enough to lay before your Committee the enclosed copy of a letter which this Chamber has forwarded to the following Chambers of Commerce in Great Britain, viz: London, Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford and Glasgow.

The letter together with the accompanying press cuttings fully set forth a serious grievance which the importers of Indian Yarn at this Port consider they have against the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association.

My Committee feel that they can rely upon the co-operation of your Chamber in this matter and trust your Committee will join them in seeking the aid of the principal Chambers in Great Britain in their endeavour to protect so important a branch of British trade.

My Committee are also requesting the support of the Tientsin Chamber.—I am, &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary

The Secretary, Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, Shanghai.

Similar letters were also sent to the Tientsin and Bombay Chambers of Commerce.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

18th May, 1908.

SIR,—With reference to the circular recently issued by the Japanese Yarn Spinner's Association regarding the issue of lottery tickets in bales of yarn, I am directed to inform you that the Consul for Japan was informed on the 21st ultimo that such issue would constitute an infringement of the Gambling Ordinance and was requested to warn the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha and other Japanese firms accordingly.

The Police have not succeeded in discovering any cases of such issue of lottery tickets as yet.—I am Sir, Your obedient servant,

F. H. MAY.

Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
General Chamber of Commerce.

PRACTICE OF LANDING GOODS INTO GODOWNS BY SHIPOWNERS.

The following correspondence was read:—
Hongkong 29th April, 1908.

SIR,—I have been asked by a firm at Hamburg to ascertain, whether there exists in Hongkong any local usage or rules according to which a steamer of a steamship line is bound to land and deliver the goods on the ship's expenses at Hongkong in a godown instead of delivering such goods alongside the ship.

The firm goes on to say: "undoubtedly some steamship lines do as afore-mentioned, but

they may be obliged to do so by a clause in the bill of lading or they say they do so to please the receiver of the goods."

"This would have nothing to do with the question. The question is: whether such a usage or rule exists in Hongkong, which would compel anyone, who has not arranged in another way to land the goods in a godown."

I also beg to ask you whether the "custom of the port" is printed and if so, where I may obtain a copy of it.

Thanking you in anticipation,—I have the honour to be, &c.,

E. A. VORETSECH,
Imperial German Consul,
The Chairman, Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
11th May, 1908.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge your letter dated the 29th April, 1908, addressed to the Chairman of this Chamber and in answer thereto I am to state that shipowners are under no obligation to deliver goods unless specifically required to do so under the terms of the bill of lading.

In the absence of any such clause consignees must take delivery ex steamer, but it is often to the advantage of owners to discharge into godowns at steamer's expense, thereby securing quick despatch.—I have &c.,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Dr. E. A. Voretzech,
Imperial German Consul,

HONGKONG-SINGAPORE QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

The following letter from the Government was read:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
7th May, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to transmit for the consideration of the Committee of the General Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copies of correspondence between this Government and the Government of the Straits Settlements on the subject of possible reduction in the restriction imposed by the Quarantine Regulations of the sister colony upon the shipping of the Port.

You will observe that if vessels arriving from Hongkong are able to satisfy the Port Authorities at Singapore that all Asiatic passengers and natives belonging to the crew have been vaccinated, the Health Officer would be willing to allow landing and give the vessel pratique as soon as the necessary examination and disinfection of passengers and their luggage were completed, provided no infectious or contagious disease was found to have manifested itself on board and that no death had occurred since the vessel left Hongkong.

I am to inquire whether the shipping firms interested, or any of them, are willing to undertake such vaccination and I am to urge the desirability of taking such precaution which appears to be the only means of escaping from the onerous restrictions at present placed upon shipping from Hongkong in the Straits Settlement.—I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
General Chamber of Commerce,
Enclosures were laid on the table.

The Secretary was instructed to see those interested in the question and draft a reply for approval.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN ITALY IN 1911.

The following letter was read:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
13th May, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to transmit for the consideration of your Chamber the enclosed copy of a circular despatch, dated the 7th ultimo, from Lord Elgin and to inquire whether, in the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, this Colony should participate in the International Exhibition which it is proposed to hold in Italy in 1911 in connection with the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy.

I am, &c.,

C. CLEMENTI
for Col. Secretary.

[Circular.]

Downing Street,
7th April, 1908.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that the Italian Government have invited His Majesty's Government to participate in an International Exhibition which it is proposed to hold in Italy in 1911 in connection with the festivities in preparation for celebrating in that year the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy, and that this invitation is intended to include the British Colonies.

2. The Italian Ambassador has intimated that the Exhibition will have its seat at Rome as regards the artistic and historical-archaeological sections, and at Turin as regards the products of industry and labour in their various manifestations.

5. I request that you will consider and report whether the Colony under your Government should take part in the Exhibition.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

ELGIN.

The Officer Administering the
Government of Hongkong.

OPIMUM QUESTION.

The decision of the Imperial Government to close the opium dens in Hongkong was brought up for discussion and a letter from Messrs. S. J. David & Co., on the subject was laid on the table.

After considerable discussion the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"The Committee of the Chamber record their strong protest against any arbitrary orders from the Imperial Government to close immediately the opium divans in Hongkong."

"The Committee of this Chamber is entirely sympathetic towards all reasonable bona-fide efforts for the mitigation of the abuse of opium but is of the opinion that any action having for its object the immediate suppression of the sale and use of opium in Hongkong will have serious effects on the economic conditions here and lead to disastrous results to the Colony's prosperity unless similar action is enforced in China."

"It is therefore resolved to request the Hongkong Government to inform the Imperial Government that any hasty and ill-considered action taken in this matter to the detriment of the interests of this Colony will be generally resented, but that on the other hand a policy of gradual reduction similar in its action to the Imperial Government's agreement with India will be loyally supported."

EXPORTATION OF TINNED LARD UNDER GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
1st May, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to transmit for the consideration of your Chamber the enclosed copy of a memorandum by His Excellency the Governor and to inquire whether any merchant in the Colony is prepared to attempt the export under Government guarantee of tinned lard—I am, &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

[Memo.]

In the course of conversation with Dr. Musgrave (who had been deputed by the Philippine Government to visit Hongkong early in December last in order to inquire into the question of epizootic diseases among cattle exported from this Colony to Manila) allusion was made to the large market for this product both there and in the United States of America, but that by a recent "Pure Food Act" it was compulsory that the tinned lard should have a Government guarantee. This he said was supplied with the lard imported from Australia, and though the Hongkong lard was both better and cheaper, it was probable that it would be entirely ousted by Australian because of this guarantee, and that the latter would also capture the American market. Dr. Musgrave I think added that lard from Hoihow and Australia would be superseded by Hongkong lard if the latter have a Government guarantee. This appeared to open a prospect of a new and very promising industry, which would consist of buying up the fat of pigs locally slaughtered and also purchasing in China and preparing it in accordance with Government requirements and so exporting it under Government guarantee.

A letter was in consequence addressed to the Australian Government inquiring what were the demands of the Government before a guarantee was issued. The Comptroller General's reply is attached.

Before pursuing this subject further I should like to know whether any merchant here is willing to embark in this trade. If so I will write to the Government of the Philippines and point out that according to the letter from the Comptroller General no guarantee is issued by the Australian Government, and request information as to what was meant by Dr. Musgrave in his allusion to a guarantee. It is meant (as I suppose) that the manufacture of lard is subject to the regulations referred to in the Comptroller General's letter, I will enquire whether, if these regulations are adopted by an exporter here, there is a prospect that Hongkong lard would find a large market in the Philippines. Although the Government issued no certificate of purity it would be feasible for the Government to see that the regulations were observed by inspections from time to time, and by occasional analysis of samples and this would probably be all that the Philippine Government require.

F. D. L.

29th May, 1908.

It was decided that the Secretary should call on firms likely to be interested in the matter and obtain their views for the consideration of the Committee.

MEMBERSHIP.

The SECRETARY reported that the Asiatic Petroleum Co., had been admitted to membership of the Chamber on the proposal of the Hongkong Bank, seconded by the Chartered Bank.

QUARANTINE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY informed the Chamber that a telegram had been received to the effect that Hongkong had been declared an infected area by the Government of Burma.

This concluded the business before the meeting.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on May 26th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president), presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. Chatham, (Vice-President), Captain Lyons, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Lieut. Col. Martin, Mr. H. W. Slade, and the following officials—Dr. Pearce (Medical Officer of Health) Dr. Macfarlane (Assistant Medical Officer of Health) and Mr. Mol. Messer (Secretary).

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION.

An application was received from Mr. E. M. Hazeland asking that sections 176 and 188 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance might be waived with respect to a house proposed to be erected on inland lot No. 522 R. P. Caine Road.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS minuted—The plan submitted does not convey a very good idea of the proposal. The proposed building will be a four-storied one, 55ft in height. There is a retaining wall in the rear of it ranging from 47 to 55 feet in height, and another retaining wall on the east side of it, a considerable portion of which is 55 feet in height and a block of three storied buildings on the west side of it 49 feet in height. It derives very little benefit from being detached. I don't consider the case merits modification.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, the application was refused.

WELL WATER.

A report was received from the Government Analyst relative to well and spring off Belcher's Street, Marine Lot No. 239. With regard to the spring he stated that the surface water was contaminating it. The water could be improved by causing any surface water to enter the spring from the bottom. This could be effected at little expense by means of a parapet. The well having been thoroughly cleaned out and repaired was now yielding water which was fit for potable purposes.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH reported—I see no way to secure that the water at the spring is kept free from contamination except by covering a sheltered trough into which the water rises and providing a pump. At present the water is contaminated by vegetable matter which falls in and by the dipping up of the water by buckets which are not clean. I don't however think that much danger is to be feared from the use of the water for the manufacture of soy. It would not, however, pass muster as drinking water.

Both Mr. HOOPER and Mr. LAU CHU-PAK minuted that the well should remain open.

The PRESIDENT—No action required.

PLAGUE AT HOK UN KOK.

Dr. MACFARLANE reported that thirteen cases of plague had occurred at a small village named Hok Un Kok between the 7th April and the 20th May. This was a large number in proportion to the number of the inhabitants and to the total for Kowloon so far. The following were the figures for the whole of Kowloon up to date: Hok Un Kok, 13; Hun-hom, 31; Yau-mati and Mongkok, 5 (4 known to be imported); Sham Shui Po and Tsam Kok Tsui, 26; other villages, 3; total, 69. The villagers of Hok Un Kok were mostly employed in the Cement Works or in Bailey's shipbuilding yards and works. They had thus every opportunity of spreading infection to other places and were probably responsible for some of the 21 cases in Hung-hom as Hung-hom itself was clean and had never much plague. Most of the houses were quite unsuitable for occupation and did not lend themselves to proper cleansing and nearly all were illegal under the Ordinance. Last year it was Kowloon city which supplied the early focus of plague. This year it was Hok Un Kok and Sham Shui Po. He did not see how plague was ever to be controlled in Kowloon until something was done to these places. He recommended that certain portions shown on a plan should be closed for human habitation and that steps should be taken to close most of the remainder later on. The walls were only loose stones and the floors of mud and damp; windows practically did not exist and in consequence most of the houses were quite dark inside. Overcrowding probably existed in many of them from their appearance. Except for these villages plague had not started properly in Kowloon yet and there was some ground for thinking that it would not do so even in the regular tenement houses if it was not allowed to thoroughly establish itself in the villages first. Details of the houses were given in the plague report furnished by the officer.

Dr. ATKINSON in a minute to the Director of Public Works wrote—I have inspected these houses with Dr. Macfarlane and they are undoubtedly not fit for human habitation. The difficulty is to find some house to accommodate the people. Would it be possible to use the match factory at Hung-hom for this purpose? If so, please let me have the key so that it can be measured up so as to ascertain how many can be accommodated.

The PRESIDENT said that from 200 to 300 people lived in those hovels, and it was advisable to have them rehoused as soon as possible. There would be plenty of accommodation in the match factory.

Mr. HOOPER—The people are little less than squatters.

The PRESIDENT—The great thing is to get the houses empty. We might leave the decision as to what is to be done with the houses until later.

Mr. HOOPER—How would you divide the families in the match factory?

The PRESIDENT—It belongs to the Government and they would put up partitions, if required.

Mr. HOOPER—You cannot turn out these people until the place is ready for them.

The PRESIDENT—We don't propose to do so. The match factory will accommodate 750 persons on each of the two floors. A caretaker will doubtless be required. If the Board order the place to be closed I think we might leave the arrangements to the Committee.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. HOOPER, it was agreed to close the houses indicated.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ended May 9th gave the following figures:—The death rate for the foreign community civil population, was 35.6 per 1000 as against 24.6 per 1000 in the corresponding week of last year. The death rate for the whole colony was 30.9 per 1000 as against 21.6 per 1000 in the corresponding week of last year.

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

The Victoria Recreation Club is no longer without a suitable habitation. The vicissitudes which the Club has undergone in recent years are too well known to call for recapitulation, but a new era dawns for this, the oldest sporting organisation in the Colony, by the formal opening of the handsome new premises which have been erected for it on the site near Murray Pier. Red brick is the material employed in the building, and the effect is not displeasing to the eye. The design is certainly striking and the club may well be proud of its new quarters which few sporting organisations in the East can excel. The foundations are built of stone. On entering the visitor passes through a long corridor which runs the whole length of the spacious gymnasium which is adequately equipped. Beyond is the boat house where a number of racing boats are stored, and at the end of this are the bath rooms and conveniences. Above the boat house are the bar room, dressing room, reading room, steward's office and large verandahs. The bar room is attractively fitted up, the dressing room has every convenience desired, and the reading room looks comfortable. The verandah, wide and airy, gives a pleasant seat with a fine outlook and a neat little balcony on Murray Road will appeal to those who wish for less company. A bicycle stand has been furnished between the two porches at the entrance. The gymnasium which has a gallery on two sides, is 55 feet long by 33 ft 6 wide, the boat house is 57 feet 2 in by 42 feet, dressing room and club room each 32 feet by 28 ft 3; the principal verandah 57 ft. 2 by 10 ft. 6; the length of the whole building is 123 ft. and the greatest width 60 ft. 2.

The opening ceremony took place on May 25th in presence of a very large attendance of members. His Excellency the Governor, who was accompanied by Captain Mitchell Taylor, A.D.C., was met by Mr. A. Rodger, the president, who extended a cordial welcome in these words:—"Your Excellency, I have the honour and pleasure to welcome you here to-day, the occasion being the formal opening of the new club premises of the old Victoria Recreation Club—a club that has done useful work in the way of training young men in athletic sports on land and water for over half a century. The committee and members are very proud of their new club house and have asked me to thank you, Sir, for coming here to-day. We hope to have the pleasure of seeing you here on many other occasions. I think it is unnecessary for me to say any more at present. May I ask Your Excellency to be good enough to turn the key in the lock and formally declare the Club house open."

HIS EXCELLENCY in reply said:—Mr. Rodger, gentlemen, I think you have chosen a most auspicious day for the opening of the new premises. May 24th, commonly called Empire Day, is, as you know, in this Colony by Ordinance called Queen Victoria Day, in memory of our late beloved sovereign, the Queen, whose birthday it was, and it is particularly fitting that you should have chosen this day as the name of the club is the Victoria Recreation Club. It is, as Mr. Rodger has told us, fifty years old—the oldest club in the Colony. You have suffered great losses in the typhoon and you have made a wonderful effort to recover and to refit your boating house and by building these charming premises here, which, I think, both as a water pavilion, and as a Club house and gymnasium combine every facility which a club of this sort can give to its members. I hope that these premises will long continue to serve the purpose for which they were erected and I wish the heartiest success to all the members in inter-port and inter-club competitions in the Colony (applause). I

hope the honour you have done me in asking me to open the building to-day may bring you some extra luck in the competitions of the coming year. I have great pleasure (and his Excellency here turned the key in the lock) in declaring the Club house open (applause).

Afterwards His Excellency made an inspection of the premises under the guidance of Mr. Rodger, at the close of which the company assembled in the gymnasium where the Governor proposed "Success to the Victoria Recreation Club," the toast being enthusiastically received. Mr. Rodger then proposed the health of His Excellency, which was followed with three cheers for the Governor who thereupon called for three cheers for the Victoria Recreation Club. These were heartily given, and then Mr. Rodger presented His Excellency with the silver key used for the opening ceremony as a souvenir of the occasion, and with Sir Frederick's reply the proceedings terminated.

THE ANTI-DYNASTIC DISTURBANCES IN YUNNAN.

The Chinese newspaper reports from Yunnan indicate that the disorders in that province are still far from being subdued, though the latest intelligence is that the rebel leader has been killed in an engagement with the Imperial troops.

Recently the commander in chief of the rebels sent a notification to the French Resident at Lao-kay, notifying him that he, as general in chief of the New China Society, was occupying the Chinese territory of Yunnan on the borders of Tonkin, and, as there was great danger in moving about the country, he was ready to give permits to Europeans. The General added: "We know that the Consul for France wishes to go to Mongtze and we would like to give him a passport. He need have no fear. If the Consul goes without papers we free ourselves of responsibility. We offer the same explanations for all travellers who pass through the territories we have taken."

Following is a translation of a proclamation by the General-in-Chief commanding "the New Chinese Society":—

"We, Huong-Yen-Phu, commandant of the forces of the New Chinese Society, make proclamation as follows:—

"Henceforth the faithful troops are rallied to our just cause.

"Strict instructions have been given and will be observed.

"We will annihilate villains, liars and traitors.

"We will severely condemn the guilty whoever they are; but we will love and protect the honest and peaceable population.

"We will recover the ancient realm of our ancestors.

"We will drive away the Manchu dynasty which has enslaved us for some centuries.

"We will ameliorate present conditions.

"From the march of the troops merchants have nothing to fear and can continue their avocations.

"The cultivators, the workers, the merchants, the students should peaceably pursue their occupations. We will protect them.

"No robbery will be committed.

"All that is needed will be bought at an agreed price.

"Robbers will be immediately punished by death.

"Nobody need be afraid.

"All the commands of this proclamation will be executed with the utmost severity regardless of the status of the person, whatever be their titles.

"Respect this!"

Empire Day was celebrated in Hongkong on May 25th. The day was observed as a holiday and business was suspended. Fortunately the weather was suitable for excursions and not a few were enabled to have a good time. The pupils of the Victoria and Kowloon British Schools were entertained to a launch picnic by H.E. the Governor in the afternoon. British vessels in the harbour were dressed in honour of the occasion.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on May 28th in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE TROOPS, Major General R. G. BROADWOOD.

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. W. REES DAVIES (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. E. A. IRVING (Registrar-General).

Hon. Commander BASIL R. H. TAYLOR, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Sir HENRY BERKELEY, K.C.

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. H. W. SLADE.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 8), and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

ADDITIONAL BYE-LAW.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the approval by this Council of the additional bye-law made under section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903 (Ordinance No. 1 of 1903) providing that the administration of salt to cattle in depots in any form whatever be prohibited except with the permission of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—I rise to move the resolution of which I have given notice. It is the outcome of the answer made to the questions which I asked at the last meeting of this Council. In making that answer your Excellency referred to the form in which those questions were put. That reference makes it necessary for me to indicate, in an endeavour to explain the form of those questions, the position occupied in this matter by that section of the community which I have the honour to represent. That I regard as important. The importance of making that position clear must be my excuse for recalling the circumstances in which we stood a fortnight ago. Developments of the opium question threatening a source of the Colony's revenue were reported to be taking place, concerning which this Council had received no information. In the Press it had been stated that an official announcement had been made in the House of Commons that His Majesty's Government had the intention of issuing forthwith an order for the immediate closure of opium establishments in Hongkong. It was difficult to believe that such an announcement would have been made without previous consultation with the local Government. It was equally difficult to believe that the Colonial Government had been consulted and had given their consent without informing the Council of the fact. But there seemed to be no escape from one or other of these two alternatives. The public was perplexed and inclined to be angry. Hence the somewhat militant note of interrogation then sounding in the air. The questions which I addressed to your Excellency were only in a limited sense mine. In reality the Community asked them. I merely drew them up. I drew them up with the primary object of obtaining official information and the secondary intention of displaying a spirit of resistance to the idea that information of the kind required could under any circumstances, be properly withheld. But I had no

wish to strike at any one innocent of participation in what at the time looked like an official conspiracy of silence. To bring out the truth clearly, to fix responsibility sharply, was the sole idea underlying the form in which those questions were put. The answer made was illuminating. It brought out into high relief the fact upon which the first part of my resolution comments. It fixed responsibility with precision, upon the Secretary of State for the Colonies. True, it showed a way out between the alternatives suggested. Notice of the announcement had indeed been given. Yes, less than 24 hours' notice; scarcely enough even to appeal in, much less obtain a hearing. It was made evident that the community had no cause of complaint against the local Government, that on the contrary practicable means had been taken to withstand the pressure so suddenly and inconsiderately exerted by the Home Authorities. It was, I am sure, a relief to the public to be made acquainted with the attitude adopted by Your Excellency in this matter, and to note that it was apparently governed by views coinciding with those held by the leading members of the community. An additional relief might with advantage have been granted earlier, I think, by publishing officially the exact terms of the announcement made in the House of Commons. This course would have saved the Colony from much harassing doubt, due to conflicting reports as to the precise nature of that statement. Some of the telegrams in the newspapers left upon the reader's mind the impression that the orders so suddenly issued were to be as promptly obeyed. Others left room to hope that the promptness appertained more to the issue of those orders, than to their execution. The telegram from the Secretary of State quoted by your Excellency did not make this point clear. Possibly the telegram which he made it impossible for you to quote was more explicit, but there would have been no reason for keeping that part of it secret. In any case I think the Colonial Government might have usefully applied for the precise terms and, if necessary, for permission to make them public at this Council table. The members of this Council seem to have equally as good a right to know the terms of that announcement as members of Parliament, concerned only, as was wittily remarked by a brilliant correspondent, in the creation of Utopias on the other side of the world. Reticence invites wonder as to whether there is something, either in the announcement or in subsequent communications, which the Secretary of State is anxious to withhold from this Council. Possibly reticence only shields evidence that he was not quite sure of what he was doing, not quite clear how far it would be possible to fulfil the promise made. If there was nothing of this sort—well, I hope that the signs of a typhoon of protest, gathering locally, may have the effect of inducing him to slow down. That is all we want. We do not want to stop. We only beg that he will proceed with caution. If he now does that, and can make it appear that we have been making a fuss about nothing, well, it will be nothing new. It is easy to imagine how it may turn out. The original intention of the order will probably be modified as a result of the outcry made and then it will be shown how unnecessary the outcry was. In any event, until we know what he is saying and doing, confidence will not be restored and an uneasy feeling will hang over the community and over the deliberations of this Council. For there are others besides myself who would decline the honour of serving on it if matters affecting local revenue are to be settled without so much as the usual courtesy of saying "by your leave." Some hint of this is intended to be conveyed by the second part of the resolution, a perfectly respectful reminder that however unimportant this Council may appear in the eyes of those who sit in the Councils of Empire, the members cannot consent to be treated as though their opinion was of no importance at all. Recognition is due to the great interests of this Colony. Those who in any sense represent those interests cannot agree to see them ignored. Ceylon apparently was treated with more consideration, also Singapore; they were asked their opinion—true, the opinion of Singapore was not waited for, but they were asked. Why not Hongkong? Sir, the community as a whole including

the Government has been forced into a most trying position by the action of the Secretary of State. It is not treatment to which we are at all accustomed. It is surely most unusual to conduct the business of State in such fiery haste. This uncereceremonious promptness compares oddly with the truly wonderful courtesy lately displayed by Lord Elgin in sending out to the local Government the text of a Trade Convention between England and Bulgaria, and asking if they had any objection to its conclusion. Your Excellency referred it on to the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, asking them if they saw any objection. The Chamber replied that they saw none, as they had never heard of any trade between Hongkong and Bulgaria. I have no desire to ridicule the extreme consideration thus shown. I merely suggest a difficulty in accounting on any intelligible principles of statecraft for such curiously contrasted methods of procedure. Some critics deny that statecraft had anything to do with the present peremptory proceeding. They attribute it to electioneering exigencies. They say that the great interests of this Colony have been treated as a mere pawn in the game of party politics. I do not propose to identify myself with that line of criticism and I particularly wish to dissociate myself from criticism of another kind which finds in the present occasion an excuse for attacking, by a somewhat circuitous route, the constitution of the Colony. There is danger in unrestrained and inconsequent criticism inasmuch as the Home Authorities may possibly say: "We did not consult you because we knew you would resist unreasonably." To resist unreasonably would expose this Colony to a form of danger which does not seem to be sufficiently recognised. There is danger lest justifiable resentment against an inconsiderate order for the suppression of a source of revenue which has been sanctioned by successive Governments for many years should be misconstrued as an obstinate and selfish disinclination to shape a course in consonance with a policy which, for better or for worse, has been adopted by both parties in the State, and which may therefore be represented as commanding itself to the national conscience. However deeply anyone may doubt the accuracy of the political estimate on which that policy is founded; however sceptical anyone may feel as to the results of the efforts at present being made by certain high Chinese officials to eradicate the opium habit; however sure anyone may feel that the poppy fields of Szechuan will outlast the doom assigned, no one can withhold respect for the sentiment which has prompted England to come to China's assistance in her avowed intention of suppressing a form of self-indulgence, over-indulgence in which is degrading. Respect for this sentiment does not imply admission that any sense of responsibility for the spread of that vice should weigh upon the national conscience. The shallow view that associates the name of the thing with our first war can be easily controverted. Nevertheless, that view has prevailed so completely over the truth that it may now be regarded as one of the classic lies of history, which England seems self-condemned to wear like a cangue. If wrongs of any sort were done in earlier days by Englishmen to China the dragging weight of that lie has amply avenged them upon their successors. Those of their successors who reverse the prophets must often have groaned in spirit over Ru-kin's vision of the English merchant sailing up and down the China Sea with a pistol in one hand and a packet of opium in the other, demanding of the unfortunate inhabitants—not in the good old manner of the gentleman of the road, "Your money or your life," but "Your money and your life." The fantastic absurdity of this kind of misrepresentation renders it all the more difficult to destroy, and, irritated by the idea, one is at times disposed to agree with those who contend that this part of the legacy of the Great Mogul has been a curse. In the desire to be rid of it I sympathise with the zealot. I envy him his clear view. I cannot adopt it because of the complicated nature of human affairs. I cannot blind myself to the complicated problems arising in connection with it. The question is complicated by the fact that our Indian fellow subjects have vast interests which we have allowed to grow up and for whose protection we are responsible,

and as a member of this Council I deem it my duty to oppose zealotry in this matter inasmuch as it threatens to invade those principles of consistency and that confidence hitherto existing under British rule and supplying the open secret of its success. I admit sentimental objection to raising revenue from such as source, but unfortunately in this imperfect world it is not possible to order our affairs in conformity with the notions of an ideal polity. An ideal polity would preclude many of the ways and means that even the most civilized States and respectable institutions adopt to support themselves. In the present aspect of the time-honoured predicament created by the contest between ideal and real conditions, we find ourselves in a difficulty. Mr. Asquith has recently said that in a difficult situation you ought to try and find yourself upon some principle that appeals to common sense and common justice. In the hope of discovering some such principle which would enable me to approve of the proposals of His Majesty's Government I referred again to the "Times" report of the recent great debate on the Licensing Bill. For the second time I read the speech made by the present Prime Minister in introducing it. I found it a rich mine of reasons against the course which he has presumably sanctioned with regard to our opium establishments. I found no single reason in favour of the justice of doing away with them by any instantaneous process. I did not find what I was looking for, but I found this in Mr. Balfour's reply. "The result is going to be that you are not going to diminish the amount of liquor consumed; you are going to transfer the consumption of that liquor from premises over which the Magistrates and the Police have control to premises over which they have no control. That is a deplorable result which certainly will not conduce to temperance." By the simple expedient of altering the word "liquor" to "opium" these words, applied in our case, seem like words of wisdom. The Government will lose a source of revenue in addition to losing control. By giving up control of the consumption you will not make people give it up. As long as the vice is popular its votaries will find a place to practise it in. There is a strong opinion that if you try to prevent the people from smoking opium they will eat it, and if you stop them from getting it to eat that they will take to alcohol. I do not propose to discuss the relative merits of popular poisons. I say nothing as to the comparative value of the opium vice and the drink habit as a relief to the monotony of hard and ceaseless toil, nor yet as to the probable increase in crime and insanity if the latter replaces the former. I do not even propose to discuss the merits of the opium policy of His Majesty's Government in relation to China. The issues do not arise out of the resolution and in any case they have already been decided. But in passing I may perhaps be allowed to say that I wish that more prominence had been given not to the question whether China is sincere but whether she is capable in the matter. Unless a man like Peter the Great arises to create Cosmos out of Chaos, it seems hardly probable that anything effectual will be done. Still, China having applied to the British Government, I do not see how any British Minister could have met her appeal without sympathy and with a blank refusal. But though Sir Edward Grey extended his sympathy he did not abandon caution. The contents of the White Book recently issued on the subject contains ample proof of that. The arrangement made between him and the great philosophic Statesman who presides over the troubled destinies of India is admirable in that respect—so admirable that I had hoped that we were to be allowed to participate in it. In that case there would have been no need for violent legislative enactment. Under that agreement the Opium Trade would have died out automatically in Hongkong, in ten years, if China keeps to her part of the bargain. All we had to do was to close down upon it ten per cent per annum, concurrently with the Indian reduction. We could, I think, with reason have set up a claim to ground the local reduction of our licensed houses upon the principle which justified cautious treatment of the Indian revenue and which applies with equal force to our revenue. It seems to me that a great Crown Colony should not be treated with less consider-

ation than even our greatest Dependency in matters affecting internal economy. These, however, are all highly controversial matters upon which opinion differs at so many points that for any one man to speak for any number of others is manifestly impossible. I can only claim to speak for that section of the community which I represent by keeping to the clear contention that whether any new development, of the opium policy adopted towards China by His Majesty's Ministers are in themselves right or wrong, wise or unwise; good, bad, or indifferent, none of them ought to have been made to apply to this Colony without reference to this Council. In this clear contention I lay claim to speak for the commercial community as a whole. I speak with the voice of a community united in protesting against the inconsiderate exercise of arbitrary power. The inconsiderate exercise of arbitrary power is not to be tolerated, without challenge, even when exercised in the name of the Sovereign people. Englishmen are very ready to repose their trust in despotic formulas, but it is always on the understanding that they shall not be used in a despotic manner. Whenever there is even a show of thus using power there is sure to be trouble. Every English statesman ought to know this. No English statesman ought to forget it. We in this Colony humbly aspire to remind one of that fact. The voice of Hongkong sounds dimly in London. We realise that only too well. We realise only too well that the voice of this Council can hardly sound at all within the walls of Westminster. But it is our duty to uplift it, nevertheless, and impelled by a sense of that duty I move—

"That the Members of this Council view with concern the action of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies in issuing an order affecting the revenue of Hongkong without having previously given sufficient notice to the Colonial Government to admit of the matter being referred to this Council; and desire to record a protest against any steps being taken to carry out the order announced in Parliament on the 6th instant, until His Majesty's Government shall have been fully informed of the prospective financial effect and before this Council shall have been called upon to consider the methods by which it is proposed to re-adjust the burden of taxation."

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—Sir, I rise to second the resolution which has been so eloquently and so ably put to the Council by my hon. friend who has just sat down. I will not follow him in his flight of oratory, for I have neither the ability nor the desire, but I wish most emphatically to associate myself with him and, I hope, with the rest of the unofficial members of this Council in maintaining the dignity, the rights and privileges of this Council—(applause)—in maintaining the claim that this Council should be consulted on all matters affecting the finances and the welfare of this fair colony of ours and in maintaining also the right of the public of Hongkong to have a consultative voice in a matter which affects its prosperity and its revenues. Furthermore, I associate myself with my unofficial colleagues in trying to save the colony from serious losses especially at the present moment when our revenue is on the decline and money is urgently required for important public works, and also in asking to have sufficient time to readjust our finances and the burden of taxation. For these reasons I join most heartily with my unofficial colleagues in the protest contained in this resolution. At the same time I wish it to be understood that I do not support this resolution because I think the closing of the opium dens is a mistake or is undesirable or that the opium farm is a benefit to the colony or is a necessity thereto (applause). I think if you take the opinion of the community, especially of the Chinese community, you will find a great majority will be against the opium farm on account of the great inconveniences and indignities put upon them by excise officers in searching their houses and persons. In fact, the opium farm is regarded by them as a blot on the fair name of this Colony and as dragging its otherwise splendid and glorious traditions in the mud. Therefore I say, root out all the opium dens, abolish the opium farm and everything else.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Public houses? Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—Yes, Anything. Opium dens, public houses, farms and anything else. I

for one will not regret and certainly the Chinese community will not regret them. But to close the opium dens at once without regard to cost and in obedience to orders, that is something that sticks in the throat of every spirited member of this Council. I say it is not right that we should not be allowed some time to consider our position and devise means to meet whatever deficiency may arise from closing all opium dens or doing away with the opium farm altogether.

Hon Mr. POLLOCK—I do not propose to detain the Council more than a minute or two but I feel I ought to say a few words in support of the arguments which have been put forward by the mover and seconder of this resolution. I agree with them in thinking that this a matter against which this Colony ought to protest very strongly namely that, without any previous consultation, an order should have been sent out from home to the effect that the opium establishments in this Colony were to be closed down. I agree, Sir, with the hon. member, the mover of this resolution, in deploring the fact that a similar courtesy as to consultation which appears to have been extended to the sister Colonies of Ceylon and the Straits Settlements was not also extended to this Colony. I would also venture to suggest that the authorities at home should have found a way much better than the arbitrary method adopted, of closing the opium establishments *pari passu* with a decrease of the poppy cultivation in China similar to the method adopted in the great dependency of India. I think, Sir, that in closing down the dens at once in this Colony which after all represents in the number of Chinese inhabitants only a thousandth part of the whole Chinese Empire, the Home Government is indulging in an act of righteousness, at our expense, and I think, Sir, it is very deplorable that they should have taken this extreme and arbitrary measure without pausing to consider what would be the result upon the finances of this Colony. As the hon. seconder of this resolution has pointed out, we are at this time in Hongkong somewhat in low water financially, and as is well known there are public works which require to be carried out. Prominent amongst them is the typhoon refuge as to which there is considerable difficulty in our finding the ways and means. I associate myself therefore with the protest moved by the hon member (Mr. Stewart).

His EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, the telegram which I received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the closing of opium dens does not refer to the whole of the opium establishments as has been stated but to the opium "dens" as they are commonly called in England. This telegram, which I read to the Council at the last meeting, stated that steps should be taken to close the opium dens but did not state that they were to be closed to-day or to-morrow and I may say that in my reply I dealt very fully with the points which have been raised by the hon member and my learned friend on my left (Mr. Pollock) and other speakers, namely the financial condition of the colony, and the way in which the closing of the dens would affect the revenue which we receive from the Opium Farm. In the Secretary of State's reply, which being marked confidential I could not read to you verbatim but of which I gave you the main purport, he agreed to await the arrival of my despatch conditionally upon steps being taken to give effect as far as possible to the policy which he had enunciated. In his original telegram also he said that a despatch would follow. I think, therefore, that although I personally agree with a great deal of what has been said by different speakers to-day, it is somewhat premature to deal in heroics at the present stage of the matter. I think that we can rely upon the statesmanship of the British Cabinet. We know, as the first speaker pointed out, that in the Licensing Bill which the present Government have brought in, they have recognised the principle of allowing time for existing licenses to expire. We know that both sides of the House, Unionists as well as Liberals, join in the general policy in regard to the suppression of opium and the mover of this resolution read a very striking passage from Mr. Balfour's speech showing how strongly the opposition feel that any steps taken to restrict the liquor traffic in

England should only be taken after due consideration of the results which they will entail. I trust therefore that we may hope that both the great parties in England will recognise the necessity of dealing with this question also in a gradual manner and not by hasty and arbitrary legislation.

The mover of the resolution asked why the Government did not enquire what the precise terms of the statement in Parliament were. The telegram was in itself, I think, sufficiently explicit. We know practically the words used in the House of Commons and in the long telegram which I sent in reply I gave every opportunity to the Secretary of State if he wished to add anything to the information which he gave in the first telegram. I suppose that his view was that it would be sufficient to await the receipt of the despatch which he had promised and the receipt of the despatch which he had agreed to await from myself. I have already replied to the only other question put to me by the mover of this resolution which was practically whether there was any secret sting in the telegram which prompted me to refrain from quoting it in full. I may assure the Council that there was nothing of the sort, in fact the purport of the telegram was practically as I gave it. The resolution which has been moved in very eloquent terms and which has been seconded and spoken to by hon. members on my right and left in scarcely less eloquent terms is one which practically conveys a censure on the action of the Secretary of State and the Home Government. I am unable to accept it but I will promise the Council that not only shall the resolution be forwarded to His Majesty's Government, but that I will forward also the Hansard copy of the debate which has taken place upon that resolution this afternoon. (applause).

Hon. Sir HENRY BERKELEY—It seems to me after the explanation given by Your Excellency to this Council that it is unnecessary for this Council to proceed to a division on the resolution so eloquently put by the hon. member opposite. No one can but sympathise with the object of the hon. member—that object being to enunciate and make clear the undoubted right of this Council to be consulted before any measure is taken or adopted which in any way affects the revenues of this colony. With that principle, I am entirely in accord and every member of the Council whether official or unofficial must, if he holds a proper view of his duties and wishes to uphold the dignity of the Council of which he is a member, also agree with it. But it is not necessary to affirm a principle until that principle has been attacked. I understand from the remarks made by Your Excellency with respect to, and in explanation of, the telegram which you have received that you have not received, as we hitherto understood, orders to take immediately measures which will affect the revenues of this Colony. As I understand, a telegram has been received in which it is intimated to you that steps should be taken and that steps are to be taken and that your Excellency has communicated with the Secretary of State asking him to withhold his decision until the communication has arrived from this side and that you have put before the Secretary of State the reasons against the immediate closing of the opium dens as expressed by the hon. member who represents the Chamber of Commerce. If Your Excellency takes steps to communicate this resolution, with the Hansard report of the debate thereon, to the Secretary of State, it seems to me that all that is desired will be achieved. I yield to none in my insistence upon the independence of this Council but I reiterate that it is not right from any point of view to insist upon rights until those rights have been infringed. I would suggest that the hon. member who represents the Chamber of Commerce should be content with the promise of His Excellency and the debate that has taken place and not press the resolution to a division. (applause).

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I suggest to the hon. mover of the resolution that the House divide on it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—You are out of order.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I am not. I am speaking upon the question of a division. I would suggest that a division be taken.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—I do not propose to

withdraw the resolution. I wish it to be put to the Council.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—On the point of order, I would point out that before the resolution can be withdrawn, the permission of the Council to withdraw should be asked.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—No.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—He is not asking to withdraw.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—I do not ask for its withdrawal.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—I beg your pardon: I misunderstood you.

The resolution was then put when there voted:—For the resolution: The Hon Mr. Murray Stewart, Hon Dr. Ho Kai, Hon Mr. Pollock, Hon Mr. Slade, Hon Mr. Wei Yuk.

Against:—The Harbour Master, the Director of Public Works, the Colonial Secretary, the Registrar General, H.E. Major General Broadwood, the Attorney General, the Colonial Treasurer and Sir Henry Berkeley.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary sum of one hundred and sixty-six thousand seven hundred and thirty-five dollars and eighty-five cents to defray the charges of the year 1907. In connection with this Bill, Sir, I lay on the table the appropriation account for the year 1907 in which full explanations will be found of the various items of excess. There is only one item which I think calls for any explanation. That is the item \$10,251.65 for land exchanged at Tsim Sha Tsui with the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company on page 28 of the Draft Account. It will be noted that that is the only item which is not covered by a supplementary vote of this Council, the reason being that when the money became due at the end of the year there was no time to ask the Council to vote a sum. Therefore Your Excellency desiring to pay the account before the accounts for the year were closed issued a cheque in expectation that this Council will legalise the payment in this Supplementary Bill. If any other information is required by hon. members, I shall be happy to give it when the Bill is referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE MAN MO TEMPLE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a bill entitled An Ordinance for the transfer of the properties of the Man Mo Temple to the Tung Wa Hospital.

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

LIQUOR LICENCES.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to extend the provisions of The Liquor Ordinance 1898 and to provide for the grant of brewery licences. In doing so he said:—The objects and reasons are stated at the end of the Bill and I don't think I have much to add. It creates a new form of licence known as a brewery licence. In the principal ordinance there are two forms of licence—wholesale and retail. The wholesale licence requires a fee of \$1000, and the Government having regard to the brewery which was a new institution thought it would be rather hard to saddle it with such a large sum in its early stages, and this Bill was framed. It introduces a new form of licence, a brewery licence, to be granted and makes it free. It also extends the power of the Governor in Council and enables him to revise from time to time the fees payable in respect of liquor licences and also gives general power to create a new form of liquor licence. For instance where a brewery under this Ordinance would be empowered to sell beer, and where it was afterwards found that it was desirable to retail beer for consumption on the premises, power would be vested in the Governor in Council to grant the required licence. Clause 7 of the Bill gives general powers. The whole object is to lay down a certain basis and make the law more comprehensive so that it will not require to be amended hereafter.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council then sat in committee to discuss the Bill.

On the Council resuming,

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the suspension of the Standing Orders.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then read a third time.

THE EVIDENCE ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Evidence Ordinance 1889. He said the alterations were purely clerical.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council then sat in committee to discuss the Bill, and on resuming, the Bill was read a third time.

OPIUM EXPORTATION.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the bill entitled An Ordinance to prohibit the Exportation of Prepared Opium to China. He said—It is unnecessary for me to add anything to what Your Excellency said at the last meeting of the Council.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

REGISTRATION OF CHEMISTS.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for the registration of Chemists and Druggists and to regulate the Sale of Poisons. He said—It has been found advisable to provide for the registration of chemists and druggists having regard to the sale of poisons. The object of the Bill is to protect the public by placing the dispensing of medicines in the hands of properly qualified persons. The Bill is based upon the English precedent, with some modifications to meet local requirements. I may say that it has been considered acceptable by the medical faculty who have had an opportunity of considering its details.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved that the Council go into Committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend to Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, and The Public Health and Buildings Amendment Ordinance, 1903.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

On Section 2.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI moved to omit the word sunshade from the definition of building. He said it would be a great hardship if Chinese had to send up plans, signed by an architect, of every sunshade proposed to be erected.

Hon. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied that there were powers to waive that.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI said successive authorities might not waive it.

It was agreed to amend the clause so as to apply only to sunshades over any street.

On clause 8,

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said the Sanitary Board had recommended an amendment which would permit of iron flues to the top of brick chimneys.

The Clause was allowed to stand over.

Clauses up to, and including 43, were passed.

Clause 44, which refers to the demolition of the upper floors of every third insanitary house, was not considered.

His Excellency adjourned the Council for a week.

The police have just discovered an extensive robbery at the shop of an Indian merchant named Moosa situated at the corner of D'Aguilar Street and Stanley Street. It appears that one of the employees had arranged with a confederate outside, and late at night the other man arrived at the premises and had a large quantity of silk and drapery goods passed out to him. Early yesterday morning one man was found outside the premises by a lukong who regarded him with suspicion and took him to the Police Station, but being unable to substantiate his suspicions the man was let go. Two hours later the lukong discovered the same man coming from the shop with a load of silk and this time arrested him with the evidence of his theft. The prisoner, we understand, has implicated others and the police hope to arrest several natives who were concerned in the robbery.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 22nd May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
(SIR F. PIGGOTT).

THE HILLSIDE MURDER.

The trial of the Chinese for the triple murder near Shatin in December 1906 was resumed when the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, who appeared for the defence, continued his cross-examination of the informer Chan Yan. He said that he did carry a stick with him on that occasion because he did not know he was going to fight. He knew he was going to plot against Luk Sang.

But you were told if you caught Luk Sang you would get \$100?—Yes.

Well, you could not expect to get hold of him without fighting?—Well, you see I was just to ask him where the grave was.

Why didn't you take a weapon with you when you left the match?—The three prisoners told me not to take a weapon. I was to go ahead and take part in the talking business.

That was on the road?—In the match they told me not to take any weapon and my heart prompted me not to take any.

When they met Luk Sang did they greet him?—No, I did the talking.

The three prisoners did not greet him?—They took no notice of him.

You spoke to Luk Sang first?—Yes.

You said you did not know Luk Sang? Before we had not seen each other.

Did you ask Luk Sang his surname?—I was told by the second prisoner that he was Luk Sang and did not ask his name.

Did Luk Sang ask your name?—No, we only spoke a few words.

You said a few words, and he took you to the grave site?—Yes.

He did not ask who you were?—No, only a few words passed and then we laid hands on him.

Did any of the other deceased speak to you?—No.

You were the first to lay hands on him?—Yes.

Did Luk Sang say anything when you caught hold of him?—I was confused and could not say whether he said anything or not.

Did he struggle with you?—Directly I seized him the first and third prisoners caught him.

Did he struggle?—No, I seized him round his arms and he could not move.

While you were attacking Luk Sang did Wong Sam San do anything?—He ran up and tried to arrest him.

What then?—We seized hold of him.

After you let Luk Sang go?—Yes, after we killed Luk Sang.

Did he have anything in his hand?—No.

Did he strike you with anything?—He could not because we seized him.

Did he show he wanted to fight?—He showed his fist.

Did he struggle?—Yes.

Did he wound any of you?—He kicked me.

Did you strike him?—While we held him Chin Man Fat struck him.

Did you see the boy when you seized Wong?—I don't think it is fair for you to say I seized him. The others had hold of him.

Did you see the boy?—I did not see him until Wong Sam San was killed.

You say the second prisoner struck Luk Sang on the head?—Yes.

What part of the head?—I could not say; any part of the head is the head.

Other witnesses for the prosecution were called, and the hearing was adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. B. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING
PUISNE JUDGE).

THE VALUE OF A HORSE.

The case was called in which Alexander Findlay Smith claimed from Phillip Harding Klimanek the sum of \$225 the amount of damages suffered by the plaintiff through the destruction of a horse belonging to plaintiff lent by him to defendant to be ridden on the

Race Course at the Happy Valley, which horse was on the 26th April, 1908, so badly injured while under the sole control of the defendant and being ridden by him in Kennedy Road contrary to the authority of the plaintiff that it had to be immediately destroyed.

Mr. R. F. C. Master appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. S. Dixon, from the office of Mr. R. A. Harding, appeared for the defendant.

The hearing was fixed for Monday week.

Tuesday, 26th May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
(SIR F. PIGGOTT).

THE HILLSIDE MURDER.

The trial of the three Chinese for the murder of three compatriots near Shatin in December 1906 was resumed.

The informer Chan Yan was recalled and was questioned as to the position of the bodies.

By the afternoon the case for the prosecution was concluded.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai then indicated what the defence would be and that he would call witnesses to speak as to the movements of the accused at the time in question. He described the case for the prosecution as unsatisfactory and full of improbabilities.

Hearing adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HON. MR. H. B. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

A COMPRADORE'S CLAIM.

Ku A Him claimed from Henrique Cruz the sum of \$889.47 due to him as commission while compradore to the defendant, who counter-claimed for \$1,000 for salary to the staff paid by H. Cruz in a legal action. Mr. C. F. Dixon, of Messrs Hastings and Hastings appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Morrell for the defendant.

Mr. Dixon said the other side admitted two of the items and plaintiff was willing to pay all that he was liable for with regard to the Chinese staff. The counter claim had not been put in until after defendant had been served with the writ, and part of the claim was for alleged shortage in 78 bags of sugar guaranteed by the compradore.

Evidence was called, and His Honour reserved his decision.

Wednesday, 27th May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
(SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

THE HILLSIDE MURDER.

The fourth day's hearing of the charge against the three Chinese for the triple murder at Shatin in December 1906 was commenced.

The Attorney General said that he understood His Lordship's ruling was that the evidence of Sergeant Wilden with regard to the searching of the house of the third prisoner, prior to his being arrested, was inadmissible. He took it that the fact of a watch being found in the third prisoner's house was admissible.

His Lordship—It is not a question of what the Sergeant said to him, but the fact that while searching the premises the police obtained evidence in a way that is not admissible. I admit the evidence subject to the defence taking the point, when the point will then be reserved for my more careful consideration.

The Attorney General—I understood your Lordship to say that, but it appears your Lordship was not understood by everybody.

His Lordship—Oh!

Dr. Ho Kai—It is admitted subject to our taking action later.

Sergeant Wilden was then recalled.

The Attorney General—You saw a box there?—Yes.

Where was it?—By the side of the bed on which the third prisoner was lying.

Witness then identified the watch as the one he had taken from the box.

His Lordship—The third prisoner opened the box in consequence of something you said to him?—Yes, my lord.

The conversation which witness had with the third prisoner prior to his arrest and which eventually led to the arrest of the third prisoner was repeated to the Court.

A number of witnesses were called for the defence with the object of setting up an alibi, one witness declaring that he attended a dinner about that time at which there were nearly hundred guests and he remembered every one and where they sat.

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai had not finished his address on behalf of the prisoners when the Court rose.

Thursday, 28th May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
(SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

THE HILLSIDE MURDER.

The fifth day's hearing of the charge against the three Chinese for the triple murder at Shatin in December 1906 was commenced.

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai concluded his address on behalf of the prisoners.

The Attorney General advised the jury to treat the alibi with caution and indicated that certain witnesses for the defence were untrustworthy. He submitted that the prosecution had made out their case.

The Chief Justice then summed up.

The jury returned with a unanimous verdict of guilty against all three prisoners.

Dr. Ho Kai then rose and said—I make a motion in arrest of judgment upon the ground that a piece of material evidence has been omitted—improperly omitted—and that is a piece of evidence concerning the finding of the watch. I suppose your Lordship will appoint a day to hear the motion when the point will be argued. I make the motion under Section 18 of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, No. 9 of 1899.

His Lordship allowed the motion and said that, in the event of the argument proving unfavourable to their case, sentence would be passed upon the prisoners in accordance with the verdict.

His Lordship told the jurymen that their names would be struck off the list for two terms and the fines imposed on those who were late at the beginning of the Session would be remitted.

STAR FERRY COMPANY LIMITED.

The tenth ordinary annual meeting of the shareholders in the company was held on May 27th at the office of Sir Paul Chater. Sir Paul Chater presided and there were also present Messrs G. Friesland (director) R. J. Macgowan (acting secretary), T. Hough, W. H. Potts, A. W. Lamperski, C. S. Gubbay, D. Dorabjee, Ho Fook, and Wong Kam Fuk.

The SECRETARY, having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, With your permission, I propose to take the report and accounts as read. The nett earnings for the period under review show a considerable decline, notwithstanding a large reduction in the coal bill, due to the high exchange, the recent fall in which is again adversely affecting our business. Some economies were effected in the working, but the loss on subsidiary coins was again over \$9000. No extraordinary expenditure having been incurred (such as was necessitated in 1906 by the typhoon) your Directors are able to recommend the payment of the same dividend as last year, viz 10 per cent but the amount to be written off the boats will be only \$8,700 against \$11,000. With the reconstruction of the Wharf and Godown Company piers, steamers which have been compelled since the typhoon of September 1906 to discharge in the stream are again berthing at Kowloon, and, as, stated in the report, a marked increase in our earning is the result. I am pleased to add that this improvement is maintained in the current month's earnings. The new ferry wharf at Kowloon was opened on 28th October; it appears to give general satisfaction,

and the expenses of repairing gangways is considerably reduced by the new method of having them amidehips. I shall be pleased to answer any questions that shareholders may wish to ask.

There being no questions,

The report was adopted on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. GUBBAY.

Mr. LAMPERSKI proposed the re-election of Sir Paul Chater to the directorate. This was seconded by Mr. HOUGH, and agreed to.

The appointment of the Hon. Mr. Keswick and Mr. Friesland as directors was confirmed on the motion of Mr. POTTS, seconded by Mr. Ho Fook.

Mr. WONG KAM FUK proposed, and Mr. LAMPERSKI seconded the re-election of Mr. Potts as auditor. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready on application. Thank you for your attendance, gentlemen.

BANKS' NOTICE.

The Exchange Banks have recently had under discussion the system at present in vogue with the Shipping Companies of issuing Bills of Lading marked "Freight payable in Hongkong" or "Freight to be collected in Hongkong."

It must be quite evident that this method provides no adequate protection to the Banks interested, as it is possible that the freight might not be paid before the arrival of the goods at their destination, in which case the Shipping Companies would probably endeavour to stop delivery until their claim had been satisfied.

The Banks see no reason why they should consent to the Shipping Companies giving credit without accepting any risk or responsibility, and in order to safeguard their interests they have decided that in future when freight is payable in Hongkong, they will not accept as security for advances, Bills of Lading which are not clearly marked "Freight paid" and the words initialled by a responsible officer of the Shipping Company interested.

We understand that the above notice, dated 20th inst., was signed by all the Exchange Banks.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS:—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 30th May, 1908:—A large demand having come forward, prices are consequently advancing.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.40	to	\$4.50
" Round, Good quality ...	5.30	to	5.35
" Long	5.25	to	5.30
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	4.10	to	4.20
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	4.60	to	4.75
" White,	5.20	to	5.25
" Fine Cargo	5.80	to	5.95

AMOI.—The Customs returns for the fortnight ended 22nd inst., show on import of 23,268 piculs.

OIL.

AMOI.—For the fortnight ended 22nd May, 60,215 gallons of Borneo Kerosine in bulk were imported into Amoy, and 31,015 gallons of bulk oil not specified in the Customs returns.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, May 29th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$980	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1000	do.
Malwa Older	\$1030	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1070	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$800	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$880	do.
Patna New	\$1180	per chest.
Patna Old	—	do.
Benares New	\$1130	do.
Benares Old	\$—	do.

AMOI.—Between the 9th and 15th inst., only 48 piculs of Benares and 4 of Persian passed through the Customs. Between the 16th and the 22nd the imports were: Benares 45; Persian 5; Malwa 1; Szechuen 35; and Yunnan 14.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, May 26th—Since the 14th instant, the movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Pers'n
Stocks on the 14th May, 1908 ..	982	1,192	838	1,191
May 18th Imports per A. Apoor ..	—	705	200	—
" 20th " " Lightning ..	—	145	10	—
" 26th " " Fook Sang ..	—	400	285	—

	982	2,651	1,333	1,191
Less Exports to Shanghai ..	25	175	50	—
Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight ..	181	471	149	4

Estimated Stocks this day .. 776 2,005 1,134 1,187

Bengal.—Owing to a falling off in the consumption the market has been lifeless. Quotations are nominal Patna at \$1180 and Benares at \$1130.

Malwa.—A fair amount of business was put through at the following rates.

2 years old	\$980
3/4 "	1,030/1,040
Oldest	1,050/1,070

Persian.—The demand is very small. Quotations are \$880/890 for superior opium.

COAL.

HONGKONG, May 30th.—The arrivals since the 17th amounted to 24,130 tons of Japanese; no Australian; 8,080 Hongay. 2,920 tons were consigned to Canton. Japanese coal has sold and Australian is offering at quotations. The coal expected is 54,200 tons of Japan coal and 5,500 Australian. Quotations, according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff	\$— to \$—	ex-ship, nominal
Australian	\$12.00	ex-ship, sellers.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Miki Lump	\$10.50 to \$11.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	\$6.50 to \$9.00	ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$6.00 to \$8.00	ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$9.25	ex-ship steady.
Labuan Lump	\$9.25	ex-ship sellers.

YARN.

HONGKONG.—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 29th May, states:—Although the volume of business transacted during the interval is smaller when compared with that of the previous fortnight, prices, on the whole, considering the rise in exchange, are fairly well up to previous quotations which, however, are still much below replacing cost. The lower counts have been in good demand, but shortness of supplies is affecting business. No. 10s have, as usual, attracted most attention, but best qualities are barely at last quotations. No. 12s and 16s are unchanged and in small request, whilst No. 20s show an appreciation of 50 cents to \$2 in special spinnings. Receipts are comparatively smaller, during the interval, and being exceeded by the off-takes, our stocks are being gradually worked down and are now within very narrow limits. The question of supplies appears to be giving dealers some concern, as beyond their own contract goods, very little is coming forward for sale, and they must shortly find it necessary to place further orders. Meanwhile we close quiet but steady. Bombay is reported strong. Sales of the fortnight aggregate 4,321 bales, arrivals amount to 5,064 bales, unsold stock estimated at 15,000 and sold but uncleared bales in native hands about 18,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—A small sale of 50 bales No. 8s at \$91, is reported. Japanese Yarn:—Nothing doing. Raw Cotton:—There has been a revival in demand for the raw material, chiefly in Indian descriptions, and some 1,257 bales, Superfine Bengals are reported to have changed hands at \$22½ and \$23½, leaving a balance of 2,150 bales on the market. China cotton, about 350 bales, have been taken up at \$23½. Stock 470 bales. Quotations are \$20 to \$23½ and Chinese \$22 to \$24. Exchange on India throughout the first part of the interval steadily advanced, touching as high as Rs. 137 for T/T and Rs. 137½ for Post, but latterly has commenced to decline, closing to-day at Rs. 134½ for T/T and Rs. 135 for Post. On Shanghai 74½ and on Japan 87½. The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 18th instant, viz:—Indian:—Market healthy with improved prospects if cotton prices are maintained. Total sales about 3,000 bales at steady to firm prices with an estimated stock of 48,000 bales. Japanese:—A

fairly large business has been done at improving rates, and about 2,000 bales have changed hands on the basis of Tls. 87 to 94 for No. 16s and Tls. 95 to 99½ for No. 20s. Local:—About 1,200 bales are reported sold at Tls. 77½ for No. 10s, Tls. 83½ for No. 14s and Tls. 85½ for No. 16s.

SHANGHAI, May 21st.—Messrs Noel, Murray & Co. report that holders of Indian yarn have continued very strong throughout the week on account of the low Exchange and higher values for Cotton, and, although this has somewhat curtailed the business done, they have gained their object. The actual sales show some irregularity, but the all round advance must be fully a tael and a half for the week. Tientsin has been the only buyers of No. 10s, the higher counts being all bought for the River markets and Szechuen. The total sales reported amount to about 2,302 bales.

SHANGHAI, May 22nd.—Messrs Ilbert & Co.'s Report states that Local Yarn has followed the upward course of the raw material, and closes firm with clearances going on fairly satisfactorily. Bombay yarn has slackened off a little but quotations keep quite steady, and Japanese spinnings are unchanged.

PIECE GOODS.

SHANGHAI, May 21st.—Messrs Noel, Murray & Co.'s report states:—There is very little substantial improvement to record since we penned our last report, but certainly no ground has been lost. The dealers have had the slight recovery in Exchange to disconcert them, but on the other hand cotton during the same period advanced fifty-five points in Liverpool, though at the close has lost twenty-three of that amount, still leaving, however, a fair margin to the good. The scarcity of good grade cotton is very marked, the current price for near "futures" advancing a half penny at one fell swoop. This has certainly to some extent affected our market, though the combination of adverse circumstances has not facilitated the furtherance of fresh business. Neither has it helped transactions, on the other hand, in spot cargo to any extent, as holders have become more impressed with the idea that there is a possibility now of obtaining much nearer replacing price for the goods they have in stock. From this it may be inferred that the position of the trade shows no advancement to speak of, in spite of the better feeling there undoubtedly is. Unfortunately, however, this feeling has not superinduced any increased demand or brighter prospects from the consuming districts, the slight improvement in clearances excepted. There is very little business passing for Newchwang at the moment, the only noticeable buying being White Shirtings at about Tls. 440 to Tls. 460. The report that a branch of the South Manchurian Railway is to be carried into that Port should be of some satisfaction to traders there. It is reported that the Tientsin market is showing signs of some slight improvement, though prices are scarcely yet on a parity with those ruling here. It is noticeable that some Indian Yarns have been bought for that market this week.

SHANGHAI.—Messrs. Ilbert & Co., in their weekly Report, dated, 22nd May, state:—There is a quieter feeling in the market this week; prices generally are firm and in some cases advances have been established for American drills, American sheetings, certain qualities of white shirtings, and yarn, but in other goods there is evidence of a disposition to wait and see what will happen to exchange and cotton. Both are important factors in regulating prices, the former, as it automatically affects the cost of goods which are held on a sterling basis, and the latter, as it influences buyers who may have orders in hand, and who generally hold back in a declining market. There is a feeling of hopefulness about the immediate future; based on the increasing soundness of the statistical position of stocks and the low level of prices here; this feeling is justified, but the restoration of confidence is a slow process, and one which tries the patience of those who have been waiting for prospects of returning prosperity. Local cotton has again advanced considerably, and is now at rates which indicate probable scarcity as the summer progresses; yarn is following slowly at a long distance behind. Bombay yarns are firmer but at current exchange prices here keep about Tl. 1 to Tls. 2.50 per bale below replacing cost. Middling American cotton advanced to 6.38d. during the week but has since fallen back to 3.03d.; in consequence of the rapid fluctuations it is very difficult to form any basis for calculation about the future of the market.

HONGKONG PRICES CURRENT.

HONGKONG, 29th May, 1908

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. piece	\$1.85 to \$2.05
7 lbs.	2.25 to 2.55
8.4 lbs.	3.25 to 4.15
10 lbs.	4.40 to 5.35
White Shirtings—54/56 reed	3.60 to 4.15
58/60 " "	5.00 to 6.50
64/66 " "	6.50 to 8.00
Fine.....	9.25
Book-folds " "	3.50 to 6.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	6.04 to 2.00
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y	2.10 to 2.25
7 lbs. " "	2.30 to 3.75
6 lbs. "Mexicans,"	2.25 to 2.30
7 lbs. " "	2.35 to 4.00
8 to 8.4 oz., 36 in.)	2.90 to 4.00
Drills, English—40 yds., 18 1/4 to 14 lbs. }	4.50 to 5.50

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 6 lbs. piece	\$1.95 to \$4.30
Brocades—Dyed	yard \$0.12 to \$0.15
Chinese—Assorted	" 0.10 to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in.,	" 0.26 to 0.55
Velveteens—18 in.,	" 0.22 to 0.27
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk doz.	0.50 to 1.10

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	yard \$0.70 to \$2.00
German,	" —
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths,	1.50 to 3.20
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. piece	7.75 to 9.00
Assorted,	7.90 to 9.15
Camlets—Assorted	9.50 to 31.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches }	13.00 to 20.00
Assorted	"
Orleans—Plain	10.00 to 11.00
Blankets—8 to 12	lbs. 0.60 to 0.85

RAW COTTON—

Bombay	picul \$19.00 to \$20.50
Bengal (New), Rangoon,	
and Dacca	20.50 to 23.50
Shanghai and Japanese...	25.00 to 26.00
Tungchow and Ningpo ...	25.00 to 26.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	picul \$4.30
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.)...	4.20
Swedish Bar	4.30
Small Round Rod	4.60
Hoop, 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.,	5.60
Wire, 16/25 oz.,	9.50
Old Wire Rope	3.00
Lead—L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	"
Australian	9.10
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/28 oz.	41.00
Vivian's, 16/32 oz., "	41.00
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	41.00
Tin,	88.00
Tin-Plates,	box 7.50
Steel	cwt. case —

MISCELLANEOUS—

Quicksilver,	picul \$156.50
Window Glass,	box 4.25
Kerosene Oil,	case —
Saltpeter, No. 1	picul \$11.00 to 11.60
Do. No. 2	" 10.75 to 10.90
Do. No. 3	" 9.50 to 9.80

WHEATEN FLOUR—

Dayton, per bag of 50 lbs.	gross \$2.20
Crown	" 3.00
Crescent	" 2.08
Orient	" 2.03
Brown Bear	" 2.75
Aboriginal	" 2.90
Warrior	" 2.90
Speiry's XXX	" 3.00
Pioneer	" 2.42
Crown	" 2.98
Orient	" 2.02
Kilin	" 2.16
White Lily	" 2.16
Blue Ribbon	" 2.18
Reardon	" 2.17
White Rose	" 2.20
Choice	" 2.18
Gluten	" 2.16
Serene Sky	" 2.16
Fairy Peach	" 2.14
The Boss	" 2.14
Mowtan Peony	" 2.15
Thrush	" 2.16
Three Sheep	" 2.17
High Tuft	" 2.16

EXPORTS:—

TEA.

YOKOHAMA.—A return has been compiled by the Yokohama Board of Trade showing in considerable detail the export of tea from Japan to America for the season 1907-1908. From Yokohama the export was 25,057,846 lbs. and from Kobe 9,147,067—total 34,204,713 lbs.

Of the new season teas, the Yokohama Board of Trade report that the market opened on the same date as last season. Supplies, however, have come down from the country more regularly and in greater quantities. The cup quality is, generally, tolerably good, but the leaf of any but the choicest grades—of which very few have been seen—is dry and in consequence the proportion of broken leaf is large. Stocks on the market at the present time are well up to the average. Total settlements at Yokohama from May 1st to May 14th amount to 15,542 piculs against 12,280 picul, at the corresponding date last year.

SILK.

CANTON, May 16th.—The settlements for the fortnight have been 600 bales for Europe and 400 for America. Stocks in Canton aggregate 8,000 bales.

YOKOHAMA, May 15th.—The advance in raw silk has continued during the past fortnight, prices having been driven up by Japanese exporters principally. Extra Filatures have gained about Y.40 in value and fine sizes about Y.20, whilst a single lot of No. 1 Boreels (Autumn cocoons) has fetched Y.900. At the close, our market is again quiet. The weather has so far been favourable for the development of the new crop. Settlements from April 27th to May 11th both dates included:—Filatures 3,205 piculs; Re-reels 280 piculs; Kakedas 80 piculs; total 3,565 piculs. Total settlements from 1st July, 1907, to 11th May, 1908 (including 43,190 bales shipments by Japanese firms, compared last season 40,783 bales) 92,190 piculs. Stock on the 12th May, amounted to 11,530 piculs, against last year's 2,965 piculs.

A steady business is doing in Waste Silk at unchanged prices. The stock offers very little choice, and arrivals are small. Settlements from April 27th to May 11th, 2,200 piculs. Total settlements July 1st to May 11th, 32,100 piculs. Stock on May 12th is estimated at 10,700 piculs.

Habutai.—The Echizen Market has shown a considerable advance since the commencement of the month, and holders do not appear at all anxious to sell. The demand from Europe and America has, however, been most unimportant but of the two there has been more from the latter country. Goods from the Kaga District have shown an active rise, but this is probably due to the filling of old contracts, new business being conspicuous by its absence. With regard to Kawamata, there has been a marked decline in all widths, and enquiries from abroad have fallen off entirely. Summarizing the general outlook, it would seem that the export trade in Habutai is likely to show a considerable diminution in the near future, buyers having no desire to operate at present prices.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 30th May.—There is no change in the market. The price of Formosan camphor remains at \$91 to \$94 a picul.

COPPER.

YOKOHAMA, May 15th.—The export for the month to the 13th inst., amounts to 5,290 piculs, bringing the export for 1908 up to 58,661 piculs. About one thousand tons have recently changed hands at Yen 31.50 to Yen 32 per 100 kin.

SUGAR.

AMoy.—The export between the 9th and the 22nd inst., amounted to:—White 132 piculs; Brown 2,514 piculs; and Candy 4,254 piculs.

GENERAL EXPORTS.

Per M. M. steamer Yarra, sailed on 26th May, 1908.—For Marseille:—450 bales soie, 200 bales dichets de soie, 4 caisses soieries, 3 caisses effets, 4 caisses thé. For Lyon:—572 bales soie. For Valencia:—15 bales soie. For Barcelona:—15 bales soie. For Marseille:—39 caisses plumes, 27 caisses ilang ilang, 3 caisses chapeaux. For Hambourg:—2 caisses plumes. For Tamatave:—8 caisses objets en papier. For Dugo Suarez:—4 caisses objets en papier.

YOKOHAMA, May 15th.—The returns for 1908 to the 13th inst., show the following exports from Yokohama:—

Silk Piece Goods	600,421 pcs.
" Handkerchief	359,946 "
Chip Braid	406,512 "
Fish Oil	36,859 pls.
Menthol Crystals	202 "
Peppermint Oil	190 "
Rice	7,432 "

JAPAN MARKET INFORMATION.

YOKOHAMA, 15th May.

Cotton Yarns.—No transactions reported. Prices in Manchester have again declined, and local values are nominally Yen 10 per bale lower. Clearances are very unsatisfactory.

Cotton Piece Goods.—Manchester is reported slightly firmer for textiles fabricated from American Cotton. There is no movement locally, and, in the absence of business, values are nominally unchanged.

Woollen and Woollen Mixtures.—Nothing of interest to report. Deliveries continue unchanged.

Textiles Generally.—Some inclination on the part of buyers to operate at current prices is checked by the slow off-take of recent arrivals against high priced contracts, and, as the producing centres are able to give prompt shipment, it is thought that nothing will be lost by delay.

Raw Cotton.—The market still remains dull. There is no change to report.

Rice.—No change since last report.

Metals.—With the exception of 200 tons Steel Plates, practically no business has been done during the past fortnight. The market remains dull with unchanged prices.

Window Glass.—Still no business doing.

Kerosene Oil.—Arrivals and deliveries for the first half of May show Standard Oil Co.: Arrivals, nil; deliveries 31,300 cases. Rising Sun Petroleum Co.: Arrivals nil; deliveries 32,000 units.

Sugar.—Business remains in the same dull condition.

Fleur.—The market shows no improvement.

Wheat.—The market remains dull.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, May 29th.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2/4
Credits 4 months' sight	2/28 1/2

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	182
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	43 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	44 1/2

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	134 1/2
Bank, on demand	135

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	134 1/2
Bank on demand	135

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	74 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	75 1/2

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	87 1/2
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	87 1/2
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	76 1/2
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ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	107 1/2
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ON HAIPHONG.—On demand

8 1/2 p.c. pm.	
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ON SAIGON.—On demand

8 p.c. pm.	
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ON BANGKOK.—On demand

82 1/2	
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

\$11.00	
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GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael

\$57.80	
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BAR SILVER, per oz

24 1/2	
--------	--

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

per cent.

Chinese	20 cents pieces...	\$8.13	discount,
"	10 " "	8 55	"
Hongkong	20 " "	7.40	"
"	10 " "	7.95	"

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 29th May, 1908.—Our market generally has continued to rule steady to firm during the past week, the chief feature of which is a further substantial advance in the value of Banks, for which an unsatisfied demand at the close still exists. Bar silver is quoted at 24½d., and exchange on London at 1/8½ T.T. The rate on Shanghai is steady at 74½. The Bank of England rate of discount has been reduced to 2½ per cent., and the open market rate for 3 months' bills to 1½ per cent.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai continuing in request, the rate rose rapidly from £730 to £750 with small sales at these and intermediate rates, and the market closes strong at the latter. London has further advanced to £76.10s. Nationals are still wanted at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCES.—A small sale of Unions at \$795 is reported, and there are further sellers at the rate. North Chinas are obtainable at Tls. 78, and Cantons at \$235. Yangtszes have improved in the North to \$147½.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continuing in strong request, and no shares appear to be forthcoming at the present quotation of \$315 buyers. Chinas have been booked at \$93, and it is probable that more shares could be placed at the rate.

SHIPPING.—Sales of Hongkong, Canton and Macao are reported at \$29, \$29½ and \$29½ and there are further buyers at the latter rate. Star Ferries have declined to \$25 and \$15 for the old and new issues respectively, ex the div. of 15 per cent. for the year ended 30th April last, paid yesterday. Other stocks under this heading are unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Raubs have been booked at \$3, and more shares are procurable. Charbonnages continue in request, but shares are not obtainable at present rate locally.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been booked at \$103, and more shares are wanted. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been sold at \$52 and \$51½, and there are further sellers at the latter rate. New Amoy Docks continue in request at \$9½, and Shanghai Docks at the improved rate of Tls. 87. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves are wanted in the North at Tls. 226.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars, under a little pressure to sell, declined to \$125, but close firmer with buyers at the rate. Luzons have continued to advance, and sales up to \$22 are reported.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$99, and Kowloon Lands at \$26. West Points are obtainable at \$49, and Hongkong Hotels at \$95 after a sale at the rate. Humphreys Estates have been done at from \$10 to \$10½, closing with buyers at the former and sellers at the lower rate. Shanghai Lands have improved in the North to Tls. 116.

COTTON MILLS.—There is no business to report in this section, and quotations are more or less nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have again been booked at \$10½, closing with buyers at this and some sellers at \$11. China Providents are still wanted at \$9, but shares are very scarce, and a slightly higher rate would undoubtedly be paid. Green Island Cements have been done at \$10½ and \$10½ closing steady at the higher rate with a firmer tendency. Hongkong and China Gas Shares have been booked at \$175 and there are further buyers. Rops after sales at the reduced rate of \$30 are in request at this figure. China Light and Powers are wanted at the improved rate of \$7, and William Powells at \$5½. Langkats have further advanced in the North to Tls. 510.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$750, buyers
National B. of China	26	London £76 10
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$51, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$71, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	\$11, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$7, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	\$9, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 58
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	\$11
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 63
Dairy Farm	\$6	Tls. 77½
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	Tls. 260
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$19½ sales
New Amoy Dock	\$61	
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	\$51½, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	\$50, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$9½, buyers
G. Island Cement	\$10	
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	Tls. 87
Hongkong Electric	\$10	Tls. 225½
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$13, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$103, sellers
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$103, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$175 sales & buy.
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$15½, sales & buy.
China Fire	\$20	\$95, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$225, sales & buy.
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$95, sellers
North China	\$25	\$225, sales & buy.
Union	\$100	Nominal
Yangtze	\$60	\$80, sales & buy.
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$30, sales & buy.
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$99, sales
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	\$10, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$26 sales
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	Tls. 116
Raubs	18/10	\$49, sellers
Peak Tramways	\$10	
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$560, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$8, sales & sel.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$14, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$1, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$2
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$8 sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$5	
Shell Transport Co.	\$21	\$125, sales & buy.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$22
Do. New	\$5	\$16, sellers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$40
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$29½, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$38
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$24
Watkins	\$10	\$45/- sales & sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$25, ex div.
Wiesmann Ltd.	\$100	\$15, ex div.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$23, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$60 sellers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

TIENTSIN SHARE QUOTATIONS.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Tientsin Land Investment Co., Ltd.	Tls. 90	98
Tientsin Baugesellschaft	98	60 nom.
Astor House Hotel	60	47
Imperial Hotel, Ltd.	47	85 sales
Grand Hotel Wagon-Lits	85	46
Taku Tug & Lighter Co.	46	100 nom.
Tientsin Water Works, Ltd.	100	104 buyers
Tientsin Native City W. W. Ltd.	104	50 sellers
Crystal, Ltd.	50	14
Tientsin Horse Bazaar	14	80 nom.
Tientsin Gas & Elect. Light Co., Ltd.	80	42 sellers
Tientsin Press, Ltd.	42	50 buyers
N. C. P. & P. Co., Ltd.	50	

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

26th May, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$740, buyers
National of China	26	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	{ R187½ } { T125 }	Tls. 175, sellers
Insurance—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$795, sellers
North-China	25	Tls. 77½, sellers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$152½, sellers
Canton	\$50	\$230, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$92, sales
Shipping—		
Indo-China { pref. } { def. }	210	Tls. 30, buyers
Shell Trans. { ord. }	21	Tls. 15, buyers
& Trading { pref. }	10	\$22.50, sellers
S'hai Tug & { ord. }	10	\$29.10, sellers
Lighter { pref. }	T50	Tls. 43, sellers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 51, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
S'hai Dock & Eng.	T100	Tls. 47½, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	Tls. 85, buyers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	\$97½, buyers
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	Tls. 227, sellers
Yangtze	T100	\$53, sellers
Sugar Companies—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 217, sales
China Refining	\$100	
Mining—		
Raub Australian	{ 21 } { 18/10 }	Tls. 77½, buyers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	21	\$135, sellers
Lands—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 15½, sellers
H'kong Investment	\$100	Tls. 118, buyers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$100, sellers
Wei-hai-wei	T25	\$104, sales
China	T50	\$9, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 50, sellers
Cotton—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 99, buyers
International	T75	Tls. 58½, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 63, sellers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 77½, sellers
H'kong C. S. W. D.	\$10	Tls. 260, sellers
Industrial—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	\$9, buyers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 109, sellers
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 42½, sales
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 14, sales
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 55, buyers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	Tls. 47, buyers
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat	G 100	\$11, sellers
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 525, buyers
S'hai Waterworks	220	Tls. 97½, buyers
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	T360, x. d. sellers
A. Butler Cement, Tile Works	50	\$85, buyers
Kalumpang Rubber	50	\$35, sales
Eastern Fibre	10	\$50, sellers
Shanghai Electric Construction	210	nominal
Miscellaneous—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$29.10s., sellers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$19, buyers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$43, buyers
Central Founders	\$15	\$11½, sellers
S. Mottrie & Co.	\$50	\$12½, sellers
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$400, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$50, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$20½, x. d. sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T25	\$22, sellers
Tsingtao Hotel	\$100	\$98, sellers
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	Tls. 8, sellers
Dunning & Co.	50	nominal
S'hai Horse Bazaar	T50	\$145, sellers
S'hai Mercury	T50	\$52, sellers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 45, sellers
China Im. & Ex. Lumber	T100	Tls. 50, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	Tls. 54, sellers
Dallas Horse Repository	T50	Tls. 83, sellers

J. P. BISSET & Co.

TONNAGE.

Hongkong, 29th May.—Freights remain about the same as last reported. From Saigon to this, several steamers have been closed at 11 cents, and one at 12 cents, market closing 11 m at last named rate; to Philippines, a small carrier has been put through at 26 cents for a part cargo; to North Coast Java, no demand for prompt loading; to South Coast Japan, 21 sen per picul offering. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, no inquiry. From Bangkok to Hongkong nothing doing and even the regular liners have had to proceed to Saigon for cargo. Newchwang to Canton, 23 cents per picul last. Coal freights remain steady. From South Japan Coal port to Hongkong, \$1.35 per ton, Canton, \$2.10; Singapore, \$1.60. From Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.25; to Canton, \$1.40. The following are the settlements:—

Reidar—Norwegian steamer, 2,276 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.35 per ton.

Tyilatap—Dutch steamer, 2,470 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.35 per ton.

Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Wakamatsu to Canton, \$2.10 per ton.

Oceano—British steamer, 1,739 tons, Hongay to Canton, \$1.40 per ton.

Fri—Norwegian steamer, 859 tons, Newchwang to Canton (20/22,000), 23 cents per picul.

Ulv—Norwegian steamer, 884 tons, Manila to Ningpo and Shanghai, \$6,200 lump sum.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Saigon to 1 port Philippines (21,000), 26 cents per picul.

Johanne—German steamer, 952 tons, Saigon to Hongkong 12 cents per picul.

Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong (25,000), 11 cents per picul.

Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.

Solstad—Norwegian steamer, 897 tons, Monthly, 1 month, at \$4,000 per month.

SHANGHAI—Messrs. Wheelock & Co. in their Report, dated 21st May, state:—Our Homeward Freight market is still as quiet as ever and although the tea season has now opened at Hankow none has come down so far for shipment from here. Coastwise:—There has been very little doing on the coast during the past fortnight and "Outsiders" are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain employment, whilst even the regular "Liners" are not always securing full cargoes.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

May—ARRIVALS.

21, *Ithaka*, German str., from Chinkiang.
21, *Kageshima Maru*, Jap. str., from Moji.
21, *Namur*, British str., from London.
21, *Palermo*, British str., from Singapore.
21, *Rajah*, German str., from Bangkok.
21, *Senegambia*, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
21, *Simongan*, Dutch str., from Samarang.
21, *Skramstad*, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
22, *Bandai Maru*, Japanese str., from Moji.
22, *Feiching*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
22, *Gwalior*, British str., from Rangoon.
22, *Kutsang*, British str., from Moji.
22, *Taming*, British str., from Manila.
23, *Benlomond*, British str., from Singapore.
23, *Calchas*, British str., from Singapore.
23, *China*, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
23, *Fukushu Maru*, Jap. str., from Amoy.
23, *Kaifong*, British str., from Iloilo.
23, *Knivsberg*, German str., from Macao.
23, *Romford*, British str., from Hongay.
23, *Singan*, British str., from Haiphong.
23, *Tjilatjap*, Dutch str., from Macassar.
24, *Easton*, British str., from Kobe.
24, *Haitan*, British str., from Coast Ports.
24, *Henrik Ibsen*, Norwegian str., from Moji.
24, *Kohgichang*, German str., from Bangkok.
24, *Suimow*, German str., from Shanghai.
25, *Chiyan*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
25, *Courtfeld*, British str., from Moji.
25, *Drufar*, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
25, *Foksang*, British str., from Calcutta.
25, *Heim*, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
25, *Hitachi Maru*, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
25, *H'kong M.*, Jap. str., from San Francisco.
25, *Kiunkiang*, British str., from Shanghai.
25, *Loyal*, German str., from Cowie.
25, *Mathilde*, German str., from Haiphong.
25, *Pheumpenh*, British str., from Saigon.
25, *Pitsanulok*, German str., from Bangkok.

25, *Sexta*, German str., from Newchwang.
25, *Suruga*, British str., from New York.
25, *Tonkin*, French str., from Marseilles.
25, *Ynensang*, British str., from Manila.
25, *Zafro*, British str., from Manila.
26, *Halvard*, Norw. str., from Newchwang.
26, *Hangsang*, British str., from Shanghai.
26, *J. Diederichsen*, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
26, *Kiangping*, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
26, *Marie*, German str., from Salina Cruz.
26, *Merapi*, Dutch str., from Singapore.
26, *Myrtledene*, British str., from Moji.
26, *Shawmut*, American str., from Seattle.
26, *Sheshu Maru*, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
26, *Solstad*, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
26, *Yatsing*, British str., from Chinkiang.
27, *Choshun Maru*, Jap. str., from Fochow.
27, *Haimun*, British str., from Coast Ports.
27, *Helene*, German str., from Swatow.
27, *Joshin Maru*, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
27, *Peiho*, German str., from Saigon.
27, *Wongkoi*, German str., from Bangkok.
28, *Arcadia*, British str., from Bombay.
28, *Nord*, British str., from Saigon.
28, *Sado Maru*, Jap. str., from London.

May—DEPARTURES.

22, *Arratoon Apar*, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
22, *Fri*, Norwegian str., for Taingtau.
22, *Haiching*, British str., for Coast Ports.
22, *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
22, *Loongsang*, British str., for Manila.
22, *Namur*, British str., for Shanghai.
22, *Wosang*, British str., for Shanghai.
23, *Carl Diederichsen*, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
23, *Hanoi*, French str., for K. C. Wan.
23, *Helene*, German str., for Swatow.
23, *Mongolia*, Am. str., for San Francisco.
23, *Quinta*, German str., for Saigon.
23, *Rubi*, British str., for Manila.
23, *Senegambia*, German str., for Singapore.
23, *Wakasa Maru*, Japanese str., for Kobe.
24, *Benlomond*, British str., for Nagasaki.
24, *Calchas*, British str., for Shanghai.
24, *China*, Austrian str., for Singapore.
24, *Daijin Maru*, Japanese str., for Swatow.
24, *Gwalior*, British str., for Amoy.
24, *Hailan*, French str., for Hoihow.
24, *Hangchow*, British str., for Shanghai.
24, *Huichow*, British str., for Swatow.
24, *Kageshima M.*, Jap. str., from Singapore.
24, *Loosok*, German str., for Swatow.
24, *Palermo*, British str., for Moji.
25, *Anghin*, German str., for Swatow.
25, *Antiloclus*, British str., for Saigon.
25, *Tonkin*, French str., for Shanghai.
26, *Aki Maru*, Jap. str., for Keelung & Seattle.
26, *Haitan*, British str., for Coast Ports.
26, *Kaifong*, British str., for Amoy.
26, *Lightning*, British str., for Singapore.
26, *Meefoo*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
26, *Singan*, British str., for Hoihow.
26, *Taming*, British str., for Manila.
26, *Yarra*, French str., for Europe, &c.
27, *Borneo*, German str., for Sandakan.
27, *Chongshing*, British str., for Swatow.
27, *Fukushu Maru*, Jap. str., for Swatow.
27, *Hitachi Maru*, Jap. str., for Singapore.
27, *Kyoto Maru*, Japanese str., for Saigon.
27, *Laertes*, British str., for Saigon.
27, *Sexta*, German str., for Saigon.
27, *Skramstad*, German str., for Saigon.
27, *Springburn*, British str., for Shanghai.
27, *Suruga*, British str., for Shanghai.
27, *Tjilatjap*, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
28, *Bandai Maru*, Japanese str., for Saigon.
28, *Derwent*, British str., for Saigon.
28, *Eastern*, Brit. str., for Australian Ports.
28, *Feiching*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
28, *Halvard*, Norwegian str., for Singapore.
28, *Hopsang*, British str., for Hongay.
28, *Ithaka*, German str., for Chinkiang.
28, *Lowther Castle*, British str., for Iloilo.
28, *Taiyuan*, Br. str., for Manila and Sydney.

PASSENGERS

ARRIVED.

Per *Namur*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr and Mrs P. Langley & infant, Miss Gourley, Engr. Lt. A. E. Drought, and Mr C. Pallot; from Marseilles, Mr Bunderwood; from Singapore, Lt. A. H. Gott; from London, for Manila, Mrs P. de la Sola; for Shanghai, Mrs Donaldson, Messrs G. C. Dew, H. Smith, W. Catforth, B. Berry and L. Porter; for Yokohama, Misses M. H. Fuller & H. Fuller, Capt. A. H. Leggett and Mr W. C. Blundell.

Per *Taming*, from Manila, Mr and Mrs R. Francisco, Mrs S. Belgich and child, Mrs F. Moore, Mrs E. Douglas, Mrs M. Strang, Rev. James Hegarty, Rev. McCaughan, Messrs I. W. Preston, H. P. Lyon, E. I. Waterhouse, I. M. Gambill, H. E. Fletcher, S. S. McKee, Elarth, E. Carrasal, A. M. Harris, G. B. Ray, F. Sana and Pedro Adino.

Per *Yarra*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs de Lapud and S. Gronert; from Shanghai, Mrs Atwood, Mrs Edwards, Miss Val, General Broadwood, Messrs A. D. C. Heathcot, Barnabé Simluez, Rolasco da Silva, Pollak, F. A. Chopard, C. Penberton, D. L. Allen, M. S. Riley, M. W. Stade, R. H. Appel, Heimendinger, Guillon, Leandro Persaro, Alexis Kolas and son; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Messrs de Lattre and Chevonce; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr and Mrs René Proust; from Shanghai, Miss Dora Hastings, & Mr Murchee; for Bombay, from Kobe, Mrs Oshika Ogami; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Mr Léon Soucé; from Shanghai Dr. Wm. Wood; for Pondichery, from Yokohama, Mr and Mrs Budichowsky; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr J. Reynaud; from Shanghai, Mrs and Miss J. Curx, and Mr Casey.

Per *Hitachi Maru*, from Japan, &c., for Hongkong, Mr and Mrs W. M. Thompson, Mr and Mrs K. Kikuchi and child, Mrs S. Mori, Mrs Y. Ogura, Mrs Y. Nomura, Mrs E. L. Carroll, Misses Collins, M. P. M. Henderson, S. Ishibashi, H. Iwai and S. Hisaoka, Captain San. Miranda, Messrs C. B. Hayward W. Newbold, C. L. Rocha, R. Handerson, A. M. Victal, R. Madderne and J. Nall.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mr and Mrs P. A. Collins, Mr and Mrs Tsou Kung, Mrs P. de la Sala, Mrs M. G. Taylor, Messrs T. W. Spencer, G. S. Powell, R. de la Sala, A. W. Schneider and C. A. Sanchez.

Per *Eastern*, for Australian Ports, Mr and Mrs Tickle, Mr and Mrs R. White, Mrs and (2) Misses Forbes, Mrs Gibb, Mrs Gillanders and child, Misses Cook, Johnson and Trenchard, Dr. C. M. Davidson, Messrs G. H. Bond, C. M. Bromley, T. P. Brown, A. d'Albuquerque, P. H. W. Dobbett, L. Fason, J. Estorninho, E. Leggatt, J. Maria, F. R. Vida and F. A. M. Xavier.

Per *Mongolia* for San Francisco, &c., Mr and Mrs Ponet, Mr and Mrs Hoxsey, Mr and Mrs C. I. Jenney, Mr and Mrs T. Ward, Mr and Mrs L. Haslet and family, Prof. and Mrs D. L. Babcock, Dr. and Mrs E. Jones, Mrs F. Hamilton, Mrs J. S. Powell and 4 children, Mrs F. Moir, Mrs Strong, Misses W. Hamlin and M. A. Lutter, Messrs A. Moir, I. C. Seaman, L. G. Brown, G. H. Roberts, L. D. Bosley, C. H. Strong, R. L. Pruett, J. W. Waldram, G. I. Brown, A. Jordan, Isaac and family, J. Cockbain, J. W. Bolles, W. B. Thomson, L. Knox, P. Goldring, C. Gerord, Bourgois, E. J. Westerhouse, J. M. Gambill, C. J. Judting, A. W. Richards, F. E. Hamel, E. R. Swift and Lundberg.

Per *Tonkin*, for Shanghai and Japan, Mr and Mrs Kenel, Mrs Suzanges, Rev. Lams, Rev. Baron, General Gonard, Messrs. Schnyzer, Soehel, R. P. Brun, Nova, Schultz, E. Blanche, G. Trinchikaki, A. Linge, Le Frieur, Pramonik, S. A. Seth, R. Seyler, J. G. da Silva, Darassa, Band, R. P. Veillon, Terrizé, Bonnet, Denis Varoui, L. Guiseppe, A. Monica, Le Meur, Marguet, Misses W. H. Wilkinson, S. S. McKee, M. Coenin, Marc Dufaux, Engel & family.

Per *Yarra*, for Marseilles, &c., Mr and Mrs René Proust, Mr and Mrs Budichowsky, Mrs and Miss Tlurg, Mrs Ninal & baby, Mrs Oyama, Misses D. Hastings and M. J. Jeanjacques, Dr. Wm. Wood, Lieut. R. Elie, Messrs Martel, Murchee, Chevonee, Gauthier, Cadeioni, Loisy, Maurie, Taron, Boujensand, Casey, Brest, P. Paul, Sol, Gassi, Capiller, Surjus, Wm. W. Rossiter, de Lattre, G. Viola, Gaudelle, Birée, Le Tallee, Bareilla, Heno, Gasette, J. Reynaud, Penfrol, Josse, Carrère, Eychemme, Dimonaia, Colanna, Segon, L. Soucé, J. P. J. Walen, B. Taraporvala, P. A. van de Stadt, P. Davaranne and W. F. Stratton.

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